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SELECT LETTERS

OF

PLINY THE YOUNGER.

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SELECT LETTERS

See Vol. 10. p. 4.

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PLINY THE YOUNGER,

WITH NOTES

ILLUSTRATIVE OF THE MANNERS, CUSTOMS, AND
LAWS OF THE ANCIENT ROMANS,

For the use of Schools.

BOSTON:

PUBLISHED BY PERKINS, MARVIN, & CO.
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PREFACE.

THE want of a convenient edition of the works of the younger Pliny for the use of schools, is a fact familiar to teachers, and which, by many, it is believed has been regarded with surprise and regret. The popularity of this author is sufficiently evinced by the number of editions which the translation has passed through, both in England and this country; while the high moral tone of his writings, the beauty of his style, and the information which can be derived from him respecting the domestic manners of the ancient Romans, fit him, in a peculiar manner, for the perusal of youth. The object aimed at in the present selection, has been to exhibit the author's powers on a variety of subjects, and thus to render the work as

interesting as possible to the student, to whom the reading of the whole would prove a tedious task. The notes are intended solely for the explanation of the texts. Verbal criticism has been dispensed with, and is, in fact, rendered unnecessary by the omission of the few passages, which are of suspicious integrity, or the explanation of which would be attended with any difficulty. It is hoped that in its present form, the work may prove acceptable both to instructors and their pupils.

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C. PLINII CÆCILII

SECUNDI

EPISTOLÆ

SELECTÆ.

LIBER I.

1. C. PLINIUS SECUNDUS SEPTICIO SUO S.

Frequenter hortatus es, ut epistolas, si quas paullò accuratiùs scripsissem, colligerem publicaremque. Collegi, non servato temporis ordine, (neque enim historiam componebam,) sed ut quæque in manus venerat. Superest, ut nec te consilii, nec me pœniteat obsequii. Ità enim fiet, ut eas, quæ adhuc neglectæ jacent, requiram: et si quas addidero, non supprimam. Vale.

2. C. PLINIUS MINUTIO FUNDANO SUO S.


Mirum est, quàm singulis diebus in urbe ratio aut constet aut constare videatur Iuribus

cunctisque non constet. Nam, si quem interrogas, *Hodiè quid egisti?* respondeat, *Officio togæ virilis interfui; sponsalia aut nuptias frequentavi; ille me ad signandum testamentum, ille in advocationem, ille in consilium rogavit.* Hæc quo die feceris, necessaria; eadem, si quotidie fecisse te reputes, inania videntur, multò magis quum secesseris. Tunc enim subit recordatio, *Quot dies quàm frigidis rebus absumsi!* Quod evenit mihi, postquam in Laurentino meo aut lego aliquid, aut scribo, aut etiam corpori vaco, cujus fulturis animus sustinetur. Nihil audio, quod audisse, nihil dico, quod dixisse pœniteat: nemo apud me quemquam sinistris sermonibus carpit; neminem ipse reprehendo, nisi unum me, quum parùm commodè scribo: nullâ spe, nullo timore sollicitor, nullis rumoribus inquietor. Mecum tantùm et cum libellis loquor. Rectam sinceramque vitam! dulce otium, honestumque, ac pæne omni negotio pulchrius! O mare, ô littus, verum secretumque musæum! quàm multa invenitis, quàm multa dictatis! Proindè tu quoque strepitum istum inanemque discursum, et multùm ineptos labores, ut primùm fuerit occasio, relinque, teque studiis vel otio trade. Satiùs est enim, ut Attilius

noster eruditissimè simul et facetissimè dixit, otiosum esse, quàm nihil agere. Vale.

3. C. PLINIUS SEPTICIO CLARO SUO S.

Heus tu! promittis ad cœnam, nec venis! Dicitur jus, ad assem impendium reddes, nec id modicum. Paratæ erant lactucæ singulæ, cochleæ ternæ, ova bina, alica cum mulso et pive, (nam hanc quoque computabis, immò hanc in primis, quæ perit in ferculo,) olivæ Bæticiæ, cucurbitæ, bulbi, alia mille non minùs lauta. Audîsses comœdum, vel lectorem, vel lyristen, vel, quæ mea liberalitas, omnes. At tu apud nescio quem, ostréa, echinos, Gaditanas, maluisti. Dabis pœnas, non dico quas. Durè fecisti: invidisti, nescio an tibi, certè mihi, sed tamen et tibi. Quantùm nos luissemus, risissemus, studuissemus! Potes apparatiùs cœnare apud multos: nusquam hilariùs, simpliciùs, incautiùs. In summâ, experire: et nisi postea te aliis potiùs excusaveris, mihi semper excusa. Vale.



LIBER II.

I. C. PLINIUS AVITO SUO S.

Longum est altiùs repetere, nec refert, quemadmodum acciderit, ut homo minimè familiaris cœnarem apud quendam, ut sibi videbatur, lautum et diligentem; ut mihi, sordidum simul et sumptuosum. Nam sibi et paucis optima quædam; cæteris, vilia et minuta ponebat. Vinum etiàm parvulis lagunculis in tria genera descripserat, non ut potestas eligendi, sed ne jus esset recusandi: et aliud sibi et nobis, aliud minoribus amicis, (nam gradatim amicos habet,) aliud suis nostrisque libertis. Animadvertit, qui mihi proximus recumbebat, et, an probarem, interrogavit. Negavi. '*Tu ergò,*' inquit, '*quam consuetudinem sequeris?*' '*Eadem omnibus pono. Ad cœnam enim, non ad notam, invito: cunctisque rebus exæquo, quos mensâ et toro æquavi.*' '*Etiàmne libertos?*' '*Etiàm. Convictores enim tunc, non liberos, puto.*' Et ille, '*Magnò tibi constat.*' '*Minimè.*' '*Quâ fieri potest?*' '*Potest: quia scilicet liberti mei non idem, quod ego, bibunt, sed idem ego, quod liberti.*' Et herculè, si gulæ temperes, non est onerosum,

quo utaris ipse, communicare cum pluribus. Illa ergò reprimenda, illa quasi in ordinem redigenda est, si sumtibus parcas, quibus aliquantò rectiùs tuâ continentîâ, quam alienâ contumeliâ, consulas. Quorsùm hæc? Ne tibi optimæ indolis juveni quorundam in mensâ luxuria specie frugalitatis imponat. Convenit autem amor in te meo, quoties tale aliquid inciderit, sub exemplo præmonere, quid debeas fugere. Igitur memento, nihil magis esse vitandum, quam istam luxuriæ et sordium novam societatem: quæ cum sint turpissima discreta ac separata, turpiùs junguntur. Vale.

2. C. PLINIUS CANINIO SUO S.

Studes? an piscaris? an venaris? an simul omnia? Possunt enim omnia simul fieri ad Larium nostrum. Nam lacus piscem, feras silvæ, quibus lacus cingitur, studia altissimus iste secessus, affatim suggerunt. Sed sive omnia simul, sive aliquid facias, non possum dicere, *Invideo*: angor tamen non et mihi licere, quæ sic concupisco, ut ægri vinum, balinea, fontes. Nunquamne hos arctissimos laqueos, si solvere negatur, abrumpam? Nunquam, puto Nam

veteribus negotiis nova accrescunt, nec tamen priora peraguntur : tot nexibus, tot quasi catenis majus in dies occupationum agmen extenditur. Vale.

3. C. PLINIUS CALVISIO SUO S.

Assem para, et accipe auream fabulam : fabulas immò. Nam me priorum nova admonuit : nec refert, a quâ potissimum incipiam. Verania Pisonis graviter jacebat ; hujus dico Pisonis, quem Galba adoptavit. Ad hanc Regulus venit. Primùm impudentiam hominis, qui venerit ad ægram, cujus marito inimicissimus, ipsi invisissimus fuerat. Esto, si venit tantùm : at ille etiam proximus toro sedit : quo die, quâ horâ nata esset, interrogavit. Ubi audivit, componit vultum, intendit oculos, movet labra, agit digitos, computat, nihil, nisi ut diu miseram expectatione suspendat. *‘Habes,’* inquit, *‘climactericum tempus, sed evades. Quod ut tibi magis liqueat, aruspicem consulam, quem sum frequenter expertus.’* Nec mora : sacrificium facit, adfirmat, exta cum siderum significatione congruere. Illa, ut in periculo, credula, poscit codicillos : legatum Regulo scribit : mox ingra-

vescit: clamat moriens; *O hominem nequam, perfidum, ac plus etiam quam perjurum!* qui sibi per salutem filii pejerasset. Facit hoc Regulus non minus sceleratè quàm frequenter, quòd iram deorum, quos ipse quotidie fallit, in caput infelicis pueri detestatur. Velleius Blæsus, ille locuples consularis, novissimâ valetudine conflictabatur: cupiebat mutare testamentum. Regulus, qui speraret aliquid ex novis tabulis, quia nuper captare eum cœperat, medicos hortari, rogare, quoquo modo spiritum homini prorogarent. Postquam signatum est testamentum, mutat personam, vertit alloquutionem, iisdemque medicis, *Quousque miserum cruciatis? quid invidetis bonam mortem, cui dare vitam non potestis?* Moritur Blæsus: et tanquam omnia audisset, Regulo ne tantulum quidem. Sufficiunt duæ fabulæ. An scholasticâ lege tertiam poscis? Est unde fiat. Aurelia, ornata femina, signatura testamentum, sumserat pulcherrimas tunicas. Regulus quum venisset ad signandum, *Rogo, inquit, has mihi leges.* Aurelia ludere hominem putabat; ille seriò instabat. Nec multa: coëgit mulierem aperire tabulas, ac sibi tunicas, quas erat induta, legare: observavit scribentem, inspexit an scripsisset. Et Aurelia

quidem vivit : ille tamen istud tanquam morituram coëgit. Et hic hereditates, hic legata, quasi mereatur, accepit ! [Sed quare irascor] in eâ civitate, in quâ jampridem non minora præmia, immo majora, nequitia et improbitas, quàm pudor et virtus habent ? Adspice Regulum, qui ex paupere et tenui ad tantas opes per flagitia processit, ut ipse mihi dixerit, quum consuleret, quam citò sestertiûm sexcenties impleturus esset, invenisse sese exta duplicia, quibus portendi, millies et ducenties habiturum. Et habebit, si modò, ut cœpit, aliena testamenta, quod est improbissimum genus falsi, ipsis, quorum sunt illa, dictaverit. Vale.

LIBER III.

I. C. PLINIUS MACRO SUO S.

Pergratum est mihi, quòd tam diligenter libros avunculi mei lectitas, ut habere omnes velis, quærasque, qui sint omnes. Fungar indicis partibus, atque etiam, quo sint ordine scripti, notum tibi faciam. Est enim hæc quoque studi-

osis non injucunda cognitio. DE JACULATIONE EQUESTRI UNUS. Hunc, quum præfectus alæ militaret, pari ingenio curâque composuit. DE VITA POMPONII SECUNDI DUO, a quo singulariter amatus, hoc memoriae amici quasi debitum munus exsolvit. BELLORUM GERMANIÆ VIGINTI, quibus omnia quæ cum Germanis gessimus bella collegit. Inchoavit, quum in Germaniâ militaret, somnio monitus. Adstitit enim quiescenti Drusi Neronis effigies, qui Germaniæ latissimè victor ibi periit: commendabat memoriam sui, orabatque, ut se ab injuriâ oblivionis adsereret. STUDIOSI TRES, in sex volumina propter amplitudinem divisi: quibus oratorem ab incunabulis instituit et perficit. DUBII SERMONIS OCTO: scripsit sub Nerone, novissimis annis, quum omne studiorum genus paullò liberius et erectius periculosum servitus fecisset. A FINE AUFIDII BASSI TRIGINTA UNUS. NATURÆ HISTORIARUM TRIGINTA SEPTEM, opus diffusum, eruditum, nec minus varium quam ipsa natura. Miraris, quod tot volumina, multaque in his tam scrupulosa, homo occupatus absolverit? Magis miraberis, si scieris, illum aliquamdiu caussas

actitâsse; decessisse anno sexto et quinquagesimo: medium tempus distentum impeditumque quâ officiis maximis, quâ amicitîâ principum egisse. Sed erat acre ingenium, incredibile studium, summa vigilantia. Erat sanè somni paratissimi, nonnunquam etiam inter studia instantis et deserentis. Ante lucem ibat ad Vespasianum imperatorem: nam ille quoque noctibus utebatur: inde ad delegatum sibi officium. Reversus domum, quod reliquum erat temporis, studiis reddebat. Post cibum sæpe (quem interdum levem et facilem veterum more sumebat) æstate, si quid otii, jacebat in sole: liber legebatur: adnotabat excerpebatque. Nihil enim legit, quod non excerperet. Dicere etiam solebat, nullum esse librum tam malum, ut non aliquâ parte prodesset. Post solem plerumque frigidâ lavabatur. Deinde gustabat, dormiebatque minimùm. Mox, quasi alio die, studebat in cœnæ tempus. Super hanc liber legebatur, adnotabatur, et quidem cursim. Memini quendam ex amicis, quum lector quædam perperam pronuntiâset, revocâsse et repeti coëgissee: huic avunculum meum dixisse, *Intellexeras nempe?* quum ille adnuisset, *Cur ergo revocabas? decem amplius versus hac tuâ inter-*

pellatione perdidimus. Tanta erat parsimonia temporis. Surgebat æstate a cœnâ, luce; hieme, intra primam noctis; et tanquam aliquâ lege cogente. Hæc inter medios labores urbisque fremitum. In secëssu solum balinei tempus studiis eximebatur. Quum dico balinei, de interioribus loquor. Nam dum destringitur tergiturque, audiebat aliquid aut dictabat. In itinere, quasi solutus ceteris curis, huic uni vacabat. Ad latus notarius cum libro et pugillaribus, cujus manus hieme manicis muniebantur, ut ne cœli quidem asperitas ullum studiis tempus eriperet: quâ ex caussâ Romæ quoque sellâ vehebatur. Repeto, me correptum ab eo, cur ambularem. *Poterat, inquit, has horas non perdere.* Nam perire omne tempus arbitrabatur, quod studiis non impertiretur. Hâc intentione tot ista volumina peregit, Electorumque commentarios centum sexaginta mihi reliquit, opisthographos quidem et minutissimè scriptos: quâ ratione multiplicatur hic numerus. Referebat ipse, potuisse se, quum procuraret in Hispaniâ, vendere hos commentarios Largio Licinio quadringentis millibus nummûm: et tunc aliquanto pauciores erant. Nonne videtur tibi, recordanti quantum legerit, quantum scripserit, nec in

officiis ullis, nec in amicitia principum fuisse? rursus, quum audis, quid studiis laboris impenderit, nec scripsisse satis, nec legisse? Quid est enim, quod non aut illæ occupationes impedire, aut hæc instantia non possit efficere? Itaque soleo ridere, quum me quidam studiosum vocant, qui, si comparer illi, sum desidiosissimus. Ego autem tantum, quem partim publica, partim amicorum officia dstringunt? Quis ex istis, qui totâ vitâ literis adsident, collatus illi, non quasi somno et inertia deditus erubescat? Extendi epistolam, quamvis hoc solum, quod requirebas, scribere destinâsem, quos libros reliquisset. Confido tamen, hæc quoque tibi non minus grata, quam ipsos libros, futura: quæ te non tantum ad legendos eos, verum etiam ad simile aliquid elaborandum, possunt æmulationis stimulis excitare. Vale.

2. C. PLINIUS NEPOTI SUO S.

Adnotâsse videor, facta dictaque virorum feminarumque illustrium alia clariora esse, alia majora. Confirmata est opinio mea hesterno Fannia sermone. Neptis hæc Arria illius, quæ marito et solatium mortis et exemplum fuit.

Multa referebat aviæ suæ non minora hoc, sed obscuriora: quæ tibi existimo tam mirabilia legenti fore, quam mihi audienti fuerunt. Ægrotabat Cæcina Pætus, maritus ejus, ægrotabat et filius, uterque mortiferè, ut videbatur: filius decessit, eximiâ pulchritudine, pari verecundiâ, et parentibus non minus ob alia carus, quàm quod filius erat. Huic illa ita funus paravit, ita duxit exsequias, ut ignoraret maritus. Quin immò quoties cubiculum ejus intraret, vivere filium, atque etiam commodiorem esse simulabat. Ac persæpè interroganti, quid ageret puer, respondebat, *Benè quievit, libenter cibum sumpsit.* Deinde quum diu cohibitæ lacrymæ vincerent prorumperentque, egrediebatur. Tum se dolori dabat. Satiata, siccis oculis, composito vultu redibat, tanquam orbitatem foris reliquisset. Præclarum quidem illud ejusdem, ferrum stringere, perfodere pectus, extrahere pugionem, porrigere marito, addere vocem immortalem ac pænè divinam, PÆTE, NON DOLET. Sed tamen ista facienti dicentique gloria et æternitas ante oculos erant: quò majus est sine præmio æternitatis, sine præmio gloriæ, abdere lacrymas, operire luctum, amissoque filio, matrem adhuc agere. Scribonianus arma in Illyrico contra

Claudium moverat : fuerat Pætus in partibus, et occiso Scriboniano, Romam trahebatur. Erat adscensurus navem : Arria milites orabat, ut simul imponeretur. *Nempe enim, inquit, daturi estis consulari viro scrulos aliquos, quorum e manu cibum capiat, a quibus vestiatur, a quibus calcietur : omnia vel sola præstabo.* Non impetravit. Conduxit piscatoriam naviculam, ingensque navigium minimo sequuta est. Eadem apud Claudium uxori Scriboniani, quum illa profiteretur indicium, *Ego, inquit, te audiam, cujus in gremio Scribonianus occisus est, et vivis?* Ex quo manifestum est, ei consilium pulcherri-mæ mortis non subitum fuisse. Quin etiam quum Thræsea, gener ejus, deprecaretur, ne mori pergeret, interque alia dixisset, *Tu vis ergo filiam tuam, si mihi pereundum fuerit, mori mecum?* respondit, *Si tam diu tantâque concordîâ vixerit tecum, quàm ego cum Pæto, volo.* Auxerat hoc responso curam suorum : attentius custodiebatur : sensit, et, *Nihil agitis, inquit : potestis enim efficere, ut malè moriar ; nè moriar, non potestis.* Dum hæc dicit, exsiluit cathedrâ, adversoque parieti caput ingenti impetu impexit, et corruit. Refocillata, *Dixeram, inquit, vobis, inventuram me, quamlibet duram, ad mortem*

viam, si vos facilem negâssetis. Videnturne hæc tibi majora illo, *Pæte, non dolet*, ad quod per hæc perventum est? quum interim illud quidem ingens fama, hæc, nulla circumfert. Unde colligitur, quod initio dixi, alia esse clariora, alia majora. Vale.


3. C. PLINIUS PRISCO SUO S.

Audio Valerium Martialem decessisse, et molestè fero. Erat homo ingeniosus, acutus, acer, et qui plurimum in scribendo et salis haberet et fellis, nec candoris minus. Prosequutus eram viatico secedentem. Dederam hoc amicitiaë, dederam etiam versiculis quos de me composuit. Fuit moris antiqui, eos qui vel singulorum laudes vel urbium scripserant, aut honoribus aut pecuniâ ornare: nostris verò temporibus, ut alia speciosa et egregia, ita hoc in primis exolevit. Nam postquam desiimus facere laudanda, laudari quoque ineptum putamus. Quæris qui sint versiculi quibus gratiam retulerim? Remitterem te ad ipsum volumen, nisi quosdam tenerem: tu si placuerint hi, ceteros in libro requires. Alloquitur Musam, mandat ut

domum meam in Esquiliis quærat, adeat reverenter :

*Sed ne tempore non tuo disertam
Pulses ebria januam, videto.
Totos dat tetricæ dies Minervæ,
Dum centum studet auribus virorum
Hoc, quod secula posterique possint
Arpinis quoque comparare chartis.
Seras tutior ibis ad lucernas,
Hæc hora est tua, quum furit Lyæus :
Quum regnat rosa, quum madent capilli,
Tunc me vel rigidi legant Catones.*

Meritóne eum qui hæc de me scripsit, et tunc dimisi amicissimè, et nunc, ut amicissimum, defunctum esse doleo ? Dedit enim mihi quantum maximum potuit, daturus amplius, si potuisset. Tametsi quid homini potest dari majus quàm gloria, et laus, et æternitas ? At non erunt æterna quæ scripsit. Non erunt fortasse : ille tamen scripsit tanquam essent futura. Vale.



LIBER IV.

I. C. PLINIUS CORNELIO TACITO SUO S.

Salvum te in urbem venisse gaudeo. Venisti autem, si quando aliàs, nunc maximè mihi desideratus. Ipse pauculis adhuc diebus in Tusculano commorabor, ut opusculum quod est in manibus absolvam. Vereor enim ne, si hanc intensionem jam in fine intermisero, ægrè resumam: interim ne quid festinationi meæ pereat, quod sum præsens petiturus, hac quasi præcursoriâ epistolâ rogo. Sed priùs accipe causas rogandi, deinde ipsum quod peto. Proximè quum in patriâ meâ fui, venit ad me salutandum municipis mei filius prætextatus. Huic ego, ‘*Studes*’? inquam. Respondit, ‘*Etiam.*’ ‘*Ubi*?’ ‘*Mediolani.*’ ‘*Cur non hic*?’ Et pater ejus (erat enim unà, atque etiam ipse adduxerat puerum,) ‘*Quia nullos híc præceptores habemus.*’ ‘*Quare nullos*? Nam vehementer intererat vestra quí patres estis (et opportunè complures patres audiebant,) liberos vestros híc potissimùm discere. *Ubi enim aut jucundiùs morarentur quàm in patriâ, aut pudiciùs continerentur quàm sub oculis parentum? aut minore sumptu quàm*

domi? Quantulum est ergo collatâ pecuniâ conducere præceptores? quodque nunc in habitationes, in viatica, in ea quæ peregrè emuntur (omnia autem peregrè emuntur) impenditis, adjicere mercedibus? Atque adedò ego, qui nondum liberos habeo, paratus sum pro republicâ, nostrâ, quasi pro filiâ vel parente, tertiam partem ejus quod conferre vobis placebit, dare. Totum etiam pollicerer, nisi timerem ne hoc munus meum quandoque ambitu corrumpetur: ut accidere multis in locis video, in quibus præceptores publicè conducuntur. Huic vitio uno remedio occurri potest, si parentibus solis jus conducendi relinquatur, iisdemque religio rectè judicandi necessitate collationis addatur. Nam qui fortasse de alieno negligentes, certè de suo diligentes erunt: dabuntque operam, ne eam a me pecuniam non nisi dignus accipiat, si accepturus et ab ipsis erit. Proinde consentite, conspirate, majoremque animum ex meo sumite, qui cupio esse quàm plurimum quod debeam conferre. Nihil honestius præstare liberis vestris, nihil gratius patriæ potestis. Edocantur hîc qui hîc nascuntur, statimque ab infantiâ natale solum amare, frequentare consuescant. Atque utinam tam claros præceptores inducatis, ut a finitimis

oppidis studia hinc petantur ! utque nunc liberi vestri aliena in loca, ita mox alieni in hunc locum confluant. Hæc putavi altiùs et quasi a fonte repetenda ; quò magis scires quàm gratum mihi foret si susciperes quod injungo. Injungo autem, et pro rei magnitudine rogo, ut ex copiâ studiosorum, quæ ad te ex admiratione ingenii tui convenit, circumspicias præceptores quos sollicitare possimus : sub eâ tamen conditione, ne cui fidem meam obstringam. Omnia enim libera parentibus servo. Illi judicent, illi eligant : ego mihi curam tantùm et impendium vindico. Proinde si quis fuerit repertus qui ingenio suo fidat, eat illuc eâ lege, ut hinc nihil aliud certum quàm fiduciam suam ferat. Vale.

2. C. PLINIUS GALLO SUO S. .

Et admones et rogas ut suscipiam absentis Corelliæ causam contra C. Cæcilium consulem ? designatum. Quòd admones, gratias ago : quod rogas, queror. Admoneri enim debeo, ut sciam : rogari non debeo ut faciam quod mihi non facere turpissimum est. An ego tueri Corellî filiam dubitem ? Est quidem mihi cum isto, contra quem me advocas, non planè familiaritas, sed tamen

amicitia. Accedit huc dignitas hominis, atque hic ipse cui destinatus est honor : cujus nobis hoc major agenda reverentia est, quòd jam illo functi sumus. Naturale est enim cuique, ut ea quæ quis adeptus est, ipsa quàm amplissima existimari velit. Sed mihi cogitanti adfuturum me Corellî filiæ, omnia ista frigida et inania videntur. Obversatur oculis ille vir, quo neminem ætas nostra graviolem, sanctiorem, subtiliorem denique tulit : quem ego quum ex admiratione diligere cœpisssem, quod evenire contrà solet, magis admiratus sum, postquam penitus inspexi. Inspexi enim penitus : nihil a me ille secretum, non jocularè, non serium, non triste, non lætum. Adolescentulus eram, et jam mihi ab illo honor, atque etiam (audebo dicere) reverentia, ut æquali, habebatur. Ille meus in petendis honoribus suffragator et testis ; ille in inchoandis deductor et comes ; ille in gerendis consiliator et rector ; ille denique in omnibus officiis nostris quanquam et imbecillus et senior, quasi juvenis et validus conspiciebatur. Quantum ille famæ meæ domi, quantum in publico, quantum etiam apud principem adstruxit ? Nam quum fortè de bonis juvenibus apud Nervam imperatorem sermo incidisset, et plerique me laudibus ferrent, paulisper

se intra silentium tenuit, quod illi plurimum auctoritatis addebat; deinde gravitate, quam nôras, *Necesse est*, inquit, *parciùs laudem Secundum, quia nihil nisi ex consilio meo facit.* Quâ voce tribuit mihi, quantum petere voto immodicum erat, nihil me facere non sapientissimè, quum omnia ex consilio sapientissimi viri facerem. Quinetiam moriens, filiæ suæ (ut ipsa solet prædicare,) *Multos quidem amicos*, inquit, *tibi in longiore vitâ paravi, præcipuos tamen, Secundum et Cornutum.* Quod dum recordor, intelligo mihi laborandum, ne quâ parte videar hanc de me fiduciam providentissimi viri destituisse. Quare ego verò Corelliæ adero promptissimè; nec subire offensas recusabo: quanquam non solùm veniam me, verùm etiam laudem apud istum ipsum, a quo, ut ais, nova lis fortasse ut feminæ intenditur, arbitror consequuturum, si hæc eadem in actione, latiùs scilicet et uberiùs quàm epistolarum angustiae sinunt, contigerit mihi vel in excusationem, vel etiam in commendationem meam dicere. Vale.

3. C. PLINIUS SEMPRONIO RUFO SUO S.

Interfui Principis optimi cognitioni, in consilium assumptus. Gymnicus agon apud Viennenses,


ex cujusdam testamento, celebrabatur. Hunc Trebonius Rufinus, vir egregius nobisque amicus, in duumviratu suo tollendum abolendumque curavit. Negabatur ex auctoritate publicâ fecisse. Egit ipse causam non minùs feliciter quàm disertè. Commendabat actionem, quòd tanquam homo Romanus et bonus civis in negotio suo maturè et graviter loquebatur. Quum sententiæ rogarentur, dixit Junius Mauricus (quo viro nihil firmitus, nihil verius) non esse restituendum Viennensibus agona: adjecit, *Vellem etiam Romæ tolli posset*. Constanter, inquis, et fortiter. Quidni? Sed hoc Maurico novum non est. Idem apud Nervam imperatorem non minùs fortiter. Cœnabat Nerva cum paucis. Veiento proximus, atque etiam in sinu recumbebat. Dixi omnia, quum hominem nominavi. Incidit sermo de Catullo Messalino, qui, luminibus orbatus, ingenio sævo mala cæcitatis addiderat. Non verebatur, non erubescibat, non miserebatur. Sæpius a Domitiano non secus ac tela, quæ et ipsa cæca et improvida feruntur, in optimum quemque contorquebatur. De ejus nequitia sanguinariisque sententiis in commune omnes super cœnam loquebantur: tum ipse Imperator, *Quid putamus passurum*

fuisse, si viveret? Et Mauricus, *Nobiscum cœnaret.* Longiùs abii, libens tamen. Placuit agona tolli, qui mores Viennensium infecerat, ut noster hic omnium. Nam Viennensium vitia intra ipsos resident, nostra latè vagantur. Utque in corporibus, sic in imperio, gravissimus est morbus qui à capite diffunditur. Vale.

4. C. PLINIUS LICINIO SUO S.

Attuli tibi ex patriâ meâ pro munusculo quæstionem, altissima istâ eruditione dignissimam. Fons oritur in monte, per saxa decurrit, excipitur cœnatiunculâ manu factâ : ibi paululum retentus in Larium lacum decedit. Hujus mira natura : ter in die, statis auctibus ac diminutionibus, crescit decrescitque. Cernitur id palam, et cum summâ voluptateprehenditur. Juxta recumbis et vesceris : atque etiam ex ipso fonte (nam est frigidissimus) potas : interim ille certis dimensisque momentis vel subtrahitur vel assurgit. Annulum, seu quid aliud, ponis in sicco, alluitur sensim, ac novissimè operitur : detegitur rursus, paulatimque deseritur : si diutius observes,

utrumque iterum ac tertio videas. Spiritusne aliquis occultior os fontis et fauces modo laxat, modo includit, prout illatus occurrit, aut decessit expulsus? Quod in ampullis ceterisque generis ejusdem videmus accidere, quibus non hians, nec statim patens, exitus. Nam illa quoque, quanquam prona et vergentia, per quasdam ob-
luctantis animæ moras crebris quasi singultibus sistunt quod effundunt. An quæ Oceano natura, fonti quoque? quaque ille ratione aut impellitur aut resorbetur, hac modicus hic humor vicibus alternis supprimitur vel egeritur? An ut flumina, quæ in mare deferuntur, adversantibus ventis, obvioque æstu retorquentur, ita est aliquid, quod hujus fontis excursum per momenta repercutiat? An latentibus venis certa mensura, quæ dum colligit quod exhauserat, minor rivus est et pigrior: quum collegit, agilior majorque profer-
tur? An nescio quod libramentum abditum et cæcum, quod quum exinanitum est, suscitatur, et elicit fontem; quum repletum, moratur et strangulat? Scrutare tu causas (potes enim) quæ tantum miraculum efficiunt. Mihi abundè est, si satis expressi quod efficitur. Vale.



LIBER V.

I. C. PLINIUS SEVERO SUO S.

Legatum mihi obvenit modicum, sed amplissimo gratius. Cur amplissimo gratius? Pomponia Gratilla exhæredato filio Assudio Curiano, hæredem reliquerat me: dederat cohæredes Sertorium Severum, prætorium virum, aliosque equites Romanos splendidos. Curianus filius orabat, ut sibi donarem portionem meam, seque præjudicio juvarem: eandem tacitâ conventionione salvam mihi pollicebatur. Respondebam; non convenire moribus meis aliud palam, aliud agere secretò: præterea, non esse satis honestum dare et locupleti ut orbo: in summâ, non profuturum ei, si donâsem; profuturum, si cessissem: esse autem me paratum cedere, si iniquè exhæredatum mihi liqueret. Ad hoc ille, *Rogo cognoscas. Cunctatus paulùm, Faciam,* inquam: *neque enim video cur ipse me minorem putem quàm tibi videor. Sed jam nunc memento; non defuturum mihi constantiam, si ita fides duxerit, secundum matrem tuam pronuntiandi. Ut voles,* ait: *voles enim quod æquissimum.* Adhibui in consilium duos, quos tunc civitas

nostra spectatissimos habuit, Corellium et Frontinum. His circumdatus, in cubiculo meo sedi. Dixit Curianus quæ pro se putabat. Respondi paucis ego (neque enim aderat alius qui defunctæ pudorem tueretur,) deinde secessi, et ex consilii sententiâ; *Videtur, inquam, Curiane, mater tua justas habuisse causas irascendi tibi.* Post hoc ille cum ceteris subscripsit centumvirale judicium, mecum non subscripsit. Appetebat judicii dies: cohæredes mei componere et transigere cupiebant; non diffidentiâ causæ, sed metu temporum. Verebantur, quod videbant multis accidisse, ne ex centumvirali judicio capitis rei exirent. Et erant quidam in illis, quibus objici et Gratillæ amicitia et Rustici posset: rogant me, ut cum Curiano loquar. Convenimus in ædem Concordiæ. Ibi ego; *Si mater inquam, te ex parte quartâ scripsisset hæredem, num queri posses? Quid si hæredem quidem instituisset ex asse, sed legatis ita exhausisset, ut non amplius apud te quàm quarta remaneret? Igitur sufficere tibi debet, si exhæredatus a matre quartam partem ab hæredibus ejus accipias, quam tamen ego augebo. Scis te non subscripsisse mecum, et jam biennium transisse, omniaque me usu cepisse. Sed ut te*

cohæredes mei tractabiliorem experiantur : utque tibi nihil abstulerit reverentia meâ, offero pro meâ parte tantundem. Tuli fructum non conscientiae modò, verùm etiam famæ. Ille ergo Curianus legatum mihi reliquit : et factum meum, nisi fortè blandior mihi, antiquum notabili honore signavit. Hæc tibi scripsi, quia de omnibus quæ me vel delectant vel angunt, non aliter tecum quàm mecum loqui soleo : deinde, quòd durum existimabam, te amantissimum mei fraudare voluptate, quam ipse capiebam. Neque enim sum tam sapiens, ut nihil mea intersit, an iis quæ honestè fecisse me credo, testificatio quædam, et quasi præmium accedat. Vale.

2. C. PLINIUS APOLLINARI SUO S.

Amavi curam et solitudinem tuam, quòd quum audîsses me æstate Tuscos meos petiturum, ne facerem suasisti, dum putas insalubres. Est sanè gravis et pestilens ora Tuscorum, quæ per littus extenditur. Sed hi procul a mari recesserunt : quinetiam Apennino, saluberrimo montium, subjacent. Atque adeò, ut omnem pro me metum ponas, accipe temperiem cœli, regionis situm, villæ amœnitatem : quæ et tibi auditu et

mihi relatu jucunda erunt. Cælum est hyeme frigidum et gelidum. Myrtos, oleas, quæque alia assiduo tepore lætantur, aspernatur ac respuit: laurum tamen patitur, atque etiam viridissimam profert; interdum, sed non sæpius quàm sub urbe nostrâ, necat. Æstatis mira clementia. Semper aër spiritu aliquo movetur; frequentiùs tamen auras quàm ventos habet. Hinc senes multos videas, avos proavosque jam juvenum; audias fabulas veteres, sermonesque majorum: quumque veneris-illò, putes alio te seculo natum. Regionis forma pulcherrima: imaginare amphitheatrum aliquod immensum, et quale sola rerum natura possit effingere. Lata et diffusa planities montibus cingitur; montes summâ sui parte procera nemora et antiqua habent. Frequens ibi et varia venatio: inde cæduæ silvæ cum ipso monte descendunt: has inter pingues terrenique colles (neque enim facilè usquam saxum, etiam si quærat, occurrit:) planissimis campis fertilitate non cedunt, opimamque messem seriùs tantum, sed non minùs percoquant. Sub his per latus omne vineæ porriguntur, unamque faciem longè latèque contexunt: quarum a fine, imoque quasi margine, arbusta nascuntur; prata inde, campi-que. Campi, quos non nisi ingentes boves et

fortissima aratra perfringunt. Tantis glebis tenacissimum solum, quum primùm prosecatur, assurgit, ut nono demum sulco perdometur. Prata florida et gemmea, trifolium, aliasque herbas, teneras semper et molles, et quasi novas, alunt. Cuncta enim perennibus rivis nutriuntur : sed ubi aquæ plurimum, palus nulla ; quia devexa terra quicquid liquoris accepit, nec absorbit, effundit in Tiberim. Medios ille agros secatur ; navium patiens, omnesque fruges devehit in urbem, hyeme duntaxat et vere ; æstate summittitur, immensique fluminis nomen arenti alveo deserit, autumnio resumit. Magnam capies voluptatem, si hunc regionis situm ex monte prospexeris. Neque enim terras tibi, sed formam aliquam, ad eximiam pulchritudinem pictam, videberis cernere. Eâ varietate, eâ descriptione, quocunque inciderint oculi, reficiuntur. * * * Habes causas, cur ego Tuscos meos Tusculanis, Tiburtinis, Prænestinisque meis præponam. Nam super illa quæ retuli, altiùs ibi otium et pinguius, eoque securius : nulla necessitas togæ, nemo accersitor ex proximo. Placida omnia et quiescentia, quod ipsum salubritati regionis, ut purius cælum, ut aër liquidior, accedit. Ibi animo, ibi corpore, maximè valeo. Nam studiis

animum, venatu corpus exerceo. Mei quoque nusquam salubriùs degunt; usque adhuc certè neminem ex iis quos eduxeram mecum (venia sit dicto) ibi amisi. Dii modò in posterum hoc mihi gaudium, hanc gloriam loco servent. Vale.

3. C. PLINIUS CAPITONI SUO S.

Suades ut historiam scribam, et suades non solus: multi hoc me sæpe monuerunt, et ego volo, non quia commodè facturum esse confido (id enim temere credas, nisi expertus) sed quia mihi pulchrum in primis videtur, non pati occidere, quibus æternitas debeatur, aliorumque famam cum suâ extendere. Me autem nihil æquè ac diutarnitatis amor et cupido sollicitat: res homine dignissima, præsertim qui nullius sibi conscius culpæ, posteritatis memoriam non reformidet. Itaque diebus ac noctibus cogito *si quà me quoque possim tollere humo*. Id enim voto meo sufficit; illud supra votum *victorque virum volitare per ora*. *Quanquam ó*. Sed hoc satis est, quod propè sola historia polliceri videtur. Orationi enim et carmini est parva gratia, nisi eloquentia sit summa: historia quoquo modo scripta delectat. Sunt enim homines

naturâ curiosi, et quamlibet nudâ rerum cognitione capiuntur, ut qui sermunculis etiam fabelisque* ducantur. Me verò ad hoc studium impellit domesticum quoque exemplum. Avunculus meus, idemque per adoptionem pater, historias, et quidem religiosissimè, scripsit. Invenio autem apud sapientes, honestissimum esse majorum vestigia sequi, si modò recto itinere præcesserint. Cur ergo cunctor? Egi magnas et graves causas. Has (etiamsi mihi tenuis ex eis spes) destino retractare, ne tantus ille labor meus, ni hoc quod reliquum est studii addidero, mecum pariter intercidat. Nam si rationem posteritatis habeas, quicquid non est peractum, pro non inchoato est. Dices, *Potes simul et rescribere actiones, et componere historiam*. Utinam! sed utrumque tam magnum est, ut abundè sit alterum efficere. Undevicesimo ætatis anno dicere in foro cœpi, et nunc demum quid præstare debeat orator, adhuc tamen per caliginem video. Quid si huic oneri novum accesserit? Habet quidem oratio et historia multa communia, sed plura diversa in his ipsis quæ communia videntur. Narrat sanè illa; narrat hæc, sed aliter. Huic pleraque humilia et sordida, et ex medio petita; illi omnia

recondita, splendida, excelsa conveniunt. Hanc sæpius ossa, muscoli, nervi; illam tori quidam et quasi jubæ decent. Hæc vel maximè vi, amaritudine, instantiâ; illa tractu et suavitate, atque etiam dulcedine, placet. Postremò alia verba, alius sonus, alia constructio. Nam plurimùm refert, ut Thucydides ait, possessio sit an certamen: quorum alterum oratio, alterum historia est. His ex causis non adducor, ut duo disimilia, et hoc ipso diversa quòd maxima, confundam misceamque, ne tantâ quasi colluvione turbatus ibi faciam quod hîc debeo. Ideoque interim veniam, ne a forensibus verbis recedam, advocandi peto. Tu tamen jam nunc cogita quæ potissimùm tempora aggrediamur. Vetera et scripta aliis? parata inquisitio, sed onerosa collatio: intacta et nova? graves offensæ, levis gratia. Nam præter id quòd in tantis vitiis hominum plura culpanda sunt quàm laudanda: tum si laudaveris, parcus; si culpaveris, nimius fuisse dicaris: quamvis illud plenissimè, hoc restrictissimè feceris. Sed hæc me non retardant; est enim mihi pro fide satis animi. Illud peto præstruas ad quod hortaris, eligasque materiam, ne mihi, jam scribere parato, alia rursus cunctationis et moræ justa ratio nascatur. Vale.

4. C. PLINIUS MARCELLINO SUO S.

Tristissimus hæc tibi scribo. Fundani nostri filia minor est defuncta : quâ puellâ nihil unquam festivius, amabilius nec modò longiore vita, sed prope immortalitate, dignius vidi. Nondum annos quatuordecim impleverat, et jam illi anilis prudentia, matronalis gravitas erat : et tamen suavitas puellaris cum virginali verecundiâ. Ut illa patris cervicibus inhærebat ! ut nos amicos paternos et amanter et modestè complectebatur ! ut nutrices, ut pædagogos, ut præceptores, pro suo quemque officio, diligebat ! Quàm studiosè, quàm intelligenter, lectitabat ! Ut parcè custoditèque ludebat ! Quâ illa temperantiâ, quâ patientiâ, quâ etiam constantiâ, novissimam valetudinem tulit ! Medicis obsequebatur, sororem, patrem adhortabatur, ipsamque se destitutam corporis sui viribus, vigore animi sustinebat. Duravit hic illi usque ad extremum, nec aut spatio valetudinis, aut metu mortis infractus est ; quo plures gravioresque nobis causas relinqueret et desiderii et doloris. O triste planè acerbumque funus ! ô morte ipsâ mortis tempus indignius ! Jam destinata erat egregio juveni,

jam electus nuptiarum dies, jam nos vocati. Quod gaudium quo mœrore mutatum est! Non possum exprimere verbis, quantum animo vulnus acceperim, quum audiui Fundanum ipsum (ut multa loctiosa dolor invenit) præcipientem, quod in vestes, margaritas, gemmas, fuerat erogaturus, hoc in thura et unguenta et odores impenderetur. Est quidem ille eruditus et sapiens, ut qui se ab ineunte ætate altioribus studiis artibusque dederit: sed nunc omnia quæ audivit sæpe, quæ dixit, aspernatur; expulsisque virtutibus aliis, pietatis est totus. Ignosces, laudabis etiam, si cogitaveris quid amiserit. Amisit enim filiam quæ non minùs mores ejus quàm os vultumque referebat, totumque patrem mirâ similitudine exscripserat. Proinde si quas ad eum de dolore tam justo literas mittes, memento adhibere solatium non quasi castigatorium et nimis fortè, sed molle et humanum. Quod ut faciliùs admittat, multum faciet medii temporis spatium. Ut enim crudum adhuc vulnus medentium manus reformidat, deinde patitur, atque ultro requirit; sic recens animi dolor consolationes rejicit ac refugit, mox desiderat, et clementer admotis acquiescit. Vale.

LIBER VI.

I. C. PLINIUS TACITO SUO S.

Petis ut tibi avunculi mei exitum scribam, quò veriùs tradere posteris possis: gratias ago. Nam video, morti ejus, si celebretur a te, immortalē gloriam esse propositam. Quamvìs enim pulcherimarum clade terrarum, ut populi, ut urbes memorabili casu, quasi semper victurus occiderit: quamvìs ipse plurima opera et mansura condiderit, multùm tamen perpetuitati ejus scriptorum tuorum æternitas addet. Equidem beatos puto, quibus deorum munere datum est aut facere scribenda, aut scribere legenda: beatissimos verò quibus utrumque. Horum in numero avunculus meus et suis libris et tuis erit. Quò libentiùs suscipio, depono etiam quod injungis. Erat Miseni, classemque imperio præsens regebat. Nono calend. Septembris, horâ diei fere septimâ, mater mea indicat ei, apparere nubem inusitatâ et magnitudine et specie. Usus ille sole mox frigidam gustaverat jacens, studebatque: poscit soleas, ascendit locum ex quo maximè miraculum illud conspici poterat: nubes (incertum procul intuentibus ex quo monte:

Vesuvium fuisse postea cognitum est) oriebatur, cujus similitudinem et formam non alia magis arbor quàm pìnus expresserit. Nam longissimo velut trunco elata in altum, quibusdam ramis diffundebatur. Credo quia recenti spiritu evecta, deinde senescente eo destituta, aut etiam pondere suo victa, in latitudinem vanescebat: candida interdum, interdum sordida et maculosa, prout terram cineremve sustulerat. Magnum propiùsque noscendum id eruditissimo viro visum. Jubet Liburnicam aptari: mihi, si venire unà vellem, facit copiam. Respondi, studere me malle, et fortè ipse quod scriberem dederat. Egrediebatur domo, accipit codicillos. Retinæ Classiarii imminenti periculo exterriti (nam villa ea subjacebat, nec ulla nisi navibus fuga) ut se tanto discrimini eriperet, orabant. Vertit ille consilium, et quod studioso animo inchoaverat, obit maximo. Deducit quadriremes, ascendit ipse, non Retinæ modò, sed multis (erat enim frequens amœnitas oræ) laturus auxilium. Properat illuc unde alii fugiunt; rectumque cursum, recta gubernacula in periculum tenet, adeò solutus metu, ut omnes illius mali motus, omnes figuras, ut deprehenderat oculis, dictaret enotaretque. Jam navibus cinis inciderat, quò pro-

piùs accederet, calidior et densior; jam pumices etiam, nigrique et ambusti et fracti igne lapides: jam vadum subitum, ruinâque montis littora obstantia: cunctatusque paulùm an retro flecteret, mox gubernatori ut ita faceret monenti, *Fortes*, inquit, *fortuna juvat: Pomponianum pete*. Stabiis erat, diremptus sinu medio. Nam sensim circumactis curvatisque littoribus mare infunditur. Ibi, quanquam nondum periculo appropinquante, conspicuo tamen, et, quum cresceret, proximo, sarcinas contulerat in naves, certus fugæ si contrarius ventus resedisset: quo tunc avunculus meus secundissimo invectus, complectitur trepidantem, consolatur, hortatur: utque timorem ejus suâ securitate leniret, deferri se in balineum jubet; lotus accubat, cœnat, atque hilaris, aut, quod est æque magnum, similis hilari. Interim e Vesuvio monte pluribus locis latissimæ flammæ altaque incendia relucebant, quorum fulgor et claritas tenebris noctis excitabatur. Ille agrestium trepidatione igni relictas desertasque villas per solitudinem ardere, in remedium formidinis, dictabat: tum se quieti dedit, et quievit verissimo quidem somno. Nam meatus animæ, qui illi propter amplitudinem corporis gravior et sonantior erat, ab iis qui

limini obversabantur, audiebatur. Sed area ex quâ diæta adibatur, ita jam cinere, mixtisque pumicibus oppleta surrexerat, ut si longior in cubiculo mora esset, exitus negaretur. Excitatus procedit, seque Pomponiano, ceterisque qui pervigilârant, reddit. In commune consultant an intra tecta subsistant, an in aperto vagentur. Nam crebris vastisque tremoribus tecta nutabant, et quasi emota sedibus suis, nunc huc, nunc illuc, abire aut referri videbantur. Sub dio rursus, quamquam levium exesorumque pumicum casus metuebatur: quod tamen periculorum collatio elegit, et apud illum quidem ratio rationem, apud alios timorem timor vicit. Cervicalia capitibus imposita linteis constringunt. Id munimentum adversus decidentia fuit. Jam dies alibi, illic nox omnibus noctibus nigrior densiorque: quam tamen faces multæ variaque lumina solvebant. Placuit egredi in littus, et e proximo aspicere ecquid jam mare admitteret, quod adhuc vastum et adversum permanebat. Ibi super abjectum linteum recubans, semel atque iterum frigidam poposcit, hausitque: deinde flammæ, flammarumque prænuntius odor sulfuris, alios in fugam vertunt, excitant illum. Innixus servis duobus assurrexit, et statim concidit, ut ego

conjecto, crassiore caligine spiritu obstructo, clausoque stomacho, qui illi naturâ invalidus et angustus et frequenter interæstuans erat. Ubi dies redditur (is ab eo, quem novissimè viderat, tertius) corpus inventum est integrum, illæsum opertumque, ut fuerat indutus: habitus corporis quiescenti quàm defuncto similior. Interim Miseni ego et mater. Sed nihil ad historiam, nec tu aliud quàm de exitu ejus scire voluisti. Finem ego faciam: unum adjiciam, omnia me, quibus interfueram, quæque statim quum maximè vera memorantur, audiveram, verè persequutum: tu potissima excerpes. Aliud est enim epistolam, aliud historiam; aliud amico, aliud omnibus scribere. Vale.

2. C. PLINIUS CORNELIO TACITO SUO S.

Ais te adductum literis, quas exigenti tibi de morte avunculi mei scripsi, cupere cognoscere, quos ego Miseni relictus (id enim ingressus abruperam) non solùm metus, verùm etiam casus pertulerim. Quanquam animus meminisse horret, incipiam. Profecto avunculo, ipse reliquum tempus studiis (ideo enim remanseram) impendi: mox balineum, cœna, somnus inquietus et brevis.

Præcesserat per multos dies tremor terræ minùs formidolosus, qui Campaniæ non solum castella, verùm etiam oppida vexare solitus: illâ verò nocte ita invaluit, ut non moveri omnia, sed everti crederentur. Irrumpit cubiculum meum mater: surgebam invicem, si quiesceret, excitaturus. Resedimus in areâ domûs, quæ mare a tectis modico spatio dividebat. Dubito constantiam vocare an prudentiam debeam: agebam enim duodevicesimum annum. Posco librum Titi Livii, et quasi per otium lego, atque etiam, ut cœperam, excerpo. Ecce, amicus avunculi, qui nuper ad eum ex Hispaniâ venerat, ut me et matrem sedentes, me verò etiam legentem videt, illius patientiam, securitatem meam corripit: nihilo segniùs ego intentus in librum. Jam hora diei prima, et adhuc dubius et quasi languidus dies, jam quassatis circumjacentibus tectis, quanquam in aperto loco, angusto tamen, magnus et certus ruinæ metus. Tum demum excedere oppido visum. Sequitur vulgus attonitum, quodque in pavore simile prudentiæ, alienum consilium suo præfert, ingentique agmine abeuntes premit et impellit. Egressi tecta consistimus: multa ibi miranda, multas formidines patimur. Nam vehicula quæ produci

jusseramus, quanquam in planissimo campo, in contrarias partes agebantur, ac ne lapidibus quidem fulta, in eodem vestigio quiescebant. Præterea mare in se resorberi, et tremore terræ quasi repelli videbatur. Certè processerat littus, multaque animalia maris in siccis arenis detinebat. Ab altero latere nubes atra et horrenda ignei spiritûs tortis vibratisque discursibus rupta, in longas flammæ figuras dehiscebat : fulgoribus illæ et similis et majores erant. Tum verò ille idem ex Hispaniâ amicus, acriùs et instantiùs, *Si frater, inquit, tuus, si tuus avunculus vivit, vult esse vos salvos : si periit, superstites voluit : proinde quid cessatis evadere ?* Respondimus, non commissuros nos, ut de salute ejus incerti, nostræ consuleremus. Non moratus ultrà proripit se, effusoque cursu periculo auferitur : nec multò pòst, illa nubes descendere in terras, operire maria. Cinxerat Capreas et absconderat : Miseni quod procurrit, abstulerat. Tum mater orare, hortari, jubere, quoquo modo fugerem : posse enim juvenem ; se et annis et corpore gravem bene morituram, si mihi causa mortis non fuisset. Ego contrà, salvum me, nisi unà, non futurum : deinde manum ejus amplexus, addere gradum cogo : paret ægrè, incu-

satque se quòd me moretur. Jam cinis adhuc tamen rarus: respicio; densa caligo tergis imminebat, quæ nos torrentis modo infusa terræ, sequebatur. *Deflectamus*, inquam, *dum videmus, ne in viâ strati, comitantium turbâ in tenebris obteramur*. Vix consederamus, et nox, non quasi illunis aut nubila, sed qualis in locis clausis lumine extincto: audires ululatus feminarum, infantium quiritatus, clamores virorum: alii parentes, alii liberos, alii conjuges vocibus requirebant, vocibus noscitabant: hi suum casum, illi suorum miserebantur: erant qui metu mortis mortem precarentur. Multi ad deos manus tollere; plures nusquam jam deos ullos, æternamque illam et novissimam noctem mundo interpretabantur. Nec defuerunt qui fictis mentitisque terroribus vera pericula augerent. Paulum reluxit; quod non dies nobis, sed adventantis ignis indicium videbatur: et ignis quidem longiùs substitit: tenebræ rursus, cinis rursus multus et gravis: hunc identidem assurgentes excutiebamus: operti alioqui, atque etiam oblisi pondere essemus. Possem gloriari, non gemitum mihi, non vocem parum fortem in tantis periculis excidissem, nisi me cum omnibus, omnia mecum perire, misero, magno tamen mortalitatis solatio credidissem.

Tandem illa caligo tenuata quasi in fumum nebulamve decessit : mox dies verus ; sol etiam effulsit, luridus tamen ; qualis esse quum deficit solet. Occursabant trepidantibus adhuc oculis mutata omnia, altoque cinere tanquam nive obducta. Regressi Misenum, curatis utcunque corporibus, suspensam dubiamque mentem spe ac metu exegimus : metus prævalebat. Nam et tremor terræ preseverabat, et plerique lymphati terrificis vaticinationibus et sua et aliena mala ludificabantur. Nobis tamen ne tunc quidem, quanquam et expertis periculum, et expectantibus, abeundi consilium, donec de avunculo nuntius veniret. Hæc, nequaquam historiâ digna, non scripturus leges, et tibi, scilicet qui requisisti, imputabis, si digna ne epistolâ quidem videbuntur. Vale.



LIBER VII.

I. C. PLINIUS RESTITUTO SUO S.

Terret me hæc tua tam pertinax valetudo, et quanquam te temperantissimum noverim, vereor tamen ne quid illi etiam in mores tuos liceat.

Proinde moneo patienter resistas. Hoc laudabile, hoc salutare. Admittit humana natura, quod suadeo. Ipse certè sic agere sanus cum meis soleo. *Spero quidem, si fortè in adversum valetudinem incidero, nihil me desideraturum vel pudore vel pœnitentiâ dignum: si tamen superaverit morbus, devuntio ne quid mihi detur, nisi permittentibus medicis: sciantque, si dederint, ita vindicaturum ut solent alii quæ negantur.* Quinetiam quum perustus ardentissimâ febri, tandem remissus unctusque acciperem a medico potionem, porrexì manum, utque me tangèret dixi, admotumque jam labris poculum reddidi. Postea quum vicesimo valetudinis die balineo præpararer, mussantesque medicos repentè vidissem, causam requisivi. Responderunt, *posse me tutò lavari, non tamen omnino sine aliquâ suspitione.* Quid, inquam, *necesse est?* Atque ita spe balinei, cui jam videbar inferri, placidè leniterque dimissâ, ad abstinentiam rursus, non secus ac modò ad balineum, animum vultumque composui. Quæ tibi scripsi, primùm ut te non sine exemplo monerem; deinde ut in posterum ipse ad eandem temperantiam astringerer, quum me hac epistolâ quasi pignore obligavissem. Vale.

2. C. PLINIUS FUSCO SUO S.

Quæris quemadmodum in secessu, quo jamdiu frueris, putem te studere oportere. Utile imprimis, et multi præcipiunt, vel ex Græco in Latinum, vel ex Latino vertere in Græcum: quo genere exercitationis proprietas splendorque verborum, copia figurarum, vis explicandi, præterea imitatione optimorum similia inveniendi facultas paratur: simul quæ legentem fefellissent, transferentem fugere non possunt. Intelligentia ex hoc et judicium acquiritur. Nihil obsuerit, quæ legeris hactenus, ut rem argumentumque teneas, quasi æmulum scribere, lectisque conferre, ac sedulò pensitare, quid tu, quid ille commodiùs. Magna gratulatio, si tu nonnulla; tum magnus pudor, si cuncta ille meliùs. Licebit interdum et notissima eligere, et certare cum electis. Audax hæc, non tamen improba, quia secreta, contentio: quanquam multos videmus ejusmodi certamina sibi cum multâ laude sumpsisse, quosque subsequi satis habebant, dum non desperant, antecessisse. Poteris et quæ dixeris, post oblivionem retractare, multa retinere, plura transire; alia interscribere, alia rescribere. Laboriosum istud et tædio plenum, sed difficultate

ipsâ fructuosum, recalescere ex integro, et resumere impetum fractum omissumque; postremò, nova velut membra peracto corpori intexere, nec tamen priora turbare. Scio nunc tibi esse præcipuum studium orandi; sed non ideo semper pugnacem hunc et quasi bellatorium stylum suaserim. Ut enim terræ variis mutatisque seminibus, ita ingenia nostra nunc hac, nunc illâ meditatione recoluntur. Volo interdum aliquem ex historiâ locum apprehendas: volo epistolam diligentius scribas, volo carmina. Nam sæpe in orationes quoque non historica modò, sed prope poëtica descriptionum necessitas incidit; et pressus sermo purusque ex epistolis petitur. Fas est et carmine remitti, non dico continuo et longo (id enim perfici nisi in otio non potest) sed hoc arguto et brevi, quod aptè quantaslibet occupationes curasque distinguit. Lusus vocantur; sed hi lusus non minorem interdum gloriam quàm seria consequuntur: atque adeò (cur enim te ad versus non versibus adhorter?)

*Ut laus est ceræ, mollis cedensque sequatur
Si doctos digitos, jussaque fiat opus;
Et nunc informet Martem castamque Minervam,
Nunc Venerem effingat, nunc Veneris puerum;*

*Utque sacri fontes non sola incendia sistunt,
Sæpe etiam flores vernaque prata juvant ;
Sic hominum ingenium flecti ducique per artes
Non rigidas doctâ mobilitate decet.*

Itaque summi oratores, summi etiam viri sic se aut exercebant aut delectabant, immo delectabant exercebantque. Nam mirum est, ut his opusculis animus intendatur remittaturque. Recipiunt enim amores, odia, iras, misericordiam, urbanitatem, omnia denique quæ ad vitam pertinent, atque etiam in foro causisque versantur. Inest his quoque eadem quæ aliis carminibus utilitas, quòd metri necessitate devincti solutâ oratione lætamur, et quòd facilius esse comparatio ostendit, libentiùs scribimus. Habes plura etiam fortasse quàm requirebas: unum tamen omisi. Non enim dixi quæ legenda arbitrarer: quamquam dixi, quum dicerem, quæ scribenda. Tu memineris, sui cujusque generis auctores diligenter eligere. (Aiunt enim, multùm legendum esse, non multa.) Qui sint hi, adeò notum provocatumque est, ut demonstratione non egeant; et alioqui tam immodicè epistolâ me extendi, ut dum tibi quemadmodum studere debeas suadeo, studendi tempus abstulerim. Quin ergo pugil-

lares resumis, et aliquid ex his, vel istud ipsum quod cœperas, scribis. Vale.

3. C. PLINIUS TACITO SUO S.

Librum tuum legi, et quàm diligentissimè potui, annotavi quæ commutanda, quæ eximenda arbitrarer. Nam et ego verum dicere assuevi, et tu libenter audire. Neque enim ulli patientiùs reprehenduntur, quàm qui maximè laudari merentur. Nunc a te librum meum cum annotationibus tuis exspecto. O jucundas, ô pulchras vices! Quàm me delectat, quòd, si qua posteris cura nostri, usquequaque narrabitur, quâ concordia, simplicitate, fide vixerimus! Erit rarum et insigne, duos homines ætate, dignitate prope modum æquales, nonnullius in literis nominis (cogor enim de te quoque parciùs dicere, quia de me simul dico,) alterum alterius studia fovisse. Equidem adolescentulus, quum jam tu famâ gloriâque floreres, te sequi, tibi *longo, sed proximus, intervallo* et esse et haberi concupiscebam. Et erant multa clarissima ingenia; sed tu mihi (ita similitudo naturæ ferebat) maximè imitabilis, maximè imitandus videbaris. Quò magis gaudeo, quòd, si quis de studiis sermo, unà nominamur;

quòd de te loquentibus statim occurro. Nec desunt qui uni ut utrique nostrûm præferantur. Sed nihil interest mea, quo loco jungimur. Nam mihi primus, qui a te proximus. Quin etiam in testamentis debes annotâsse, nisi quis fortè alterutri nostrûm amicissimus, eadem legata, et quidem pariter, accipimus. Quæ omnia huc spectant, ut in vicem ardentius diligamus, cùm tot vinculis nos studia, mores, fama, suprema denique hominum judicia constringant. Vale.

4. C. PLINIUS MAXIMO SUO S.

Nuper me cujusdam amici languor admonuit, optimos esse nos dum infirmi sumus. Quem enim infirmum aut avaritia aut libido sollicitat? Non amoribus servit, non appetit honores, opes negligit, et quantulumcunque, ut relicturus, satis habet: tunc deos, tunc hominem esse se meminit: invidet nemini, neminem miratur, meminem despicit, ac ne sermonibus quidem malignis aut attendit, aut alitur: balinea imaginatur et fontes. Hæc summa curarum, summa votorum; mollemque in posterum et pinguem, si contingat evadere, hoc est, innoxiam beatamque destinat vitam. Possum ergo, quod pluribus verbis,

pluribus etiam voluminibus philosophi docere conantur, ipse breviter tibi mihiq̃ue præcipere, ut tales esse sani perseveremus, quales nos futuros profitemur infirmi. Vale.

5. C. PLINIUS TACITO SUO S.

Auguror (nec me fallit augurium) historias tuas immortales futuras: quò magis illis (ingenuè fatebor) inseri cupio. Nam si esse nobis curæ solet ut facies nostra ab optimo quoque artifice exprimatur, nonne debemus optare, ut operibus nostris similis tuû scriptor prædicatorque contingat? Demonstrò itaque, quanquam diligentiam tuam non fugere possit, cùm sit in publicis actis, demonstrò tamen, quò magis credas, jucundum mihi futurum, si factum meum, cujus gratia periculo crevit, tuo ingenio, tuo testimonio ornaveris. Dederat me Senatus cum Herennio Senecione advocatum provinciæ Bæticæ contra Bæbium Massam: damnatoque Massâ censuerat ut bona ejus publicè custodirentur. Senecio, quum explorâsset consules postulationibus vacaturos, convenit me: et, *Quâ concordia, inquit, injunctam nobis accusationem exsequuti sumus, hac adeamus consules, peti-*

musque ne bona dissipari sinant, quorum esse in custodiâ debent. Respondi; Quum simus advocati a senatu dati, dispice, num peractas putes partes nostras, Senatûs cognitione finitâ. Et Ille; Tu quem voles tibi terminum statues, cui nulla cum provinciâ necessitudo, nisi ex beneficio tuo, et hoc recenti: ipse et natus ibi, et quæstor in eâ fui. Tum ego; Si fixum tibi istud ac deliberatum, sequar te, ut si qua ex hoc invidia erit, non tua tantùm sit. Venimus ad consules, dicit Senecio quæ res ferebat: aliqua subjungo. Vixdum conticueramus, et Massa questus Senecionem non advocati fidem, sed inimici amaritudinem implêsse, impietatis reum postulat. Horror omnium: ego autem, Vereor, inquam, clarissimi consules, ne mihi Massa silentio suo prævaricationem objecerit, quòd non et me reum postulavit. Quæ vox et statim excepta, et postea multo sermone celebrata est. Divus quidem Nerva (nam privatus quoque attendebat his quæ rectè in publico fierent) missis ad me gravissimis literis, non mihi solùm, verùm etiam seculo est gratulatus, cui exemplum (sic enim scripsit) simile antiquis contigisset. Hæc, utcunque se habent, notiora, clariora, majora tu facies: quanquam non exigo ut excedas actæ

rei modum. Nam nec historia debet egredi veritatem, et honestè factis veritas sufficit. Vale.



LIBER VIII.

1. C. PLINIUS ROMANO SUO S.

Vidistine aliquando Clitumnum fontem? Si nondum (et puto nondum : alioqui narâsses mihi,) vide; quem ego (pœnitet tarditatis) proximè vidi. Modicus collis assurgit, antiquâ cupressu nemorosus et opacus. Hunc subter fons exit, et exprimitur pluribus venis, sed imparibus; eluctatusque facit gurgitem, qui lato gremio patescit purus et vitreus, ut numerare jactas stipes et relucentes calculos possis. Inde non loci devexitate, sed ipsâ suû copiâ et quasi pondere, impellitur. Fons adhuc, et jam amplissimum flumen atque etiam navium patiens; quas obvias quoque et contrario nisu in diversa tendentes, transmittit et perfert; adeò validus ut illà quâ properat, ipse, quanquam per solum planum, remis non adjuvetur : idem ægerrimè remis contisque superetur adversus. Jucundum

utrumque per jocos ludumque fluitantibus, ut flexerint cursum, laborem otio, otium labore variare. Ripæ fraxino multâ, multâ populo vestiuntur: quas perspicuus amnis, velut mersas, viridi imagine annumerat. Rigor aquæ certaverit nivibus; nec color cedit. Adjacet templum, priscum et religiosum. Stat Clitumnus ipse amictus ornatique prætextâ. Præsens numen, atque etiam fatidicum, indicant sortes. Sparsa sunt circâ sacella complura, totidemque dei simulacra: sua cuique veneratio, suum nomen; quibusdam verò etiam fontes. Nam, præter illum quasi parentem cæterorum, sunt minores capite discreti: sed flumini miscentur, quod ponte transmittitur. Is terminus sacri profanique. In superiore parte navigare tantùm, infrâ etiam natare concessum. Balineum Hispellates, quibus illum locum divus Augustus dono dedit, publicè præbent, et hospitium. Nec desunt villæ, quæ sequutæ fluminis amœnitatem, margini insistent. In summâ, nihil erit ex quo non capias voluptatem. Nam studebis quoque, et leges multa multorum omnibus columnis, omnibus parietibus inscripta, quibus fons ille deusque celebratur. Plura laudabis, nonnulla ridebis; quanquam tu verò, quæ tua humanitas, nulla ridebis. Vale.

2. C. PLINIUS MACRINO SUO S.

Num istic quoque immite et turbidum cœlum ?
Hîc assiduæ tempestates, et crebra diluvia. Ti-
beris alveum excessit, et demissioribus ripis altè
superfunditur. Quancquam fossâ, quam provi-
dentissimus imperator fecit, exhaustus, premit
valles, innatat campis ; quaque planum solum,
pro solo cernitur. Inde, quæ solet flumina
accipere, et permista devehere, velut obvius
retro cogit ; atque ita alienis aquis operit agros,
quos ipse non tangit. Anio, delicatissimus
amni, ideoque adjacentibus villis velut invita-
tus retentusque, magnâ ex parte nemora, quibus
inumbratur, et fregit et rapuit. Subruit montes,
et decidentium mole pluribus locis clausus, dum
amissum iter quærit, impulit tecta, ac sese super
ruinas evexit atque extulit. Viderunt hi, quos
excelsioribus terris illa tempestas non deprehen-
dit, alibi divitum apparatus, et gravem supel-
lectilem, alibi instrumenta ruris : ibi boves,
aratra, rectores ; hîc soluta et libera armenta ;
atque inter hæc arborum truncos, aut villarum
trabes atque culmina, variè latèque fluitantia.
Ac ne illa quidem loca malo vacaverunt, ad quæ
non ascendit amnis. Nam pro amne imber

assiduus, et dejecti nubibus turbines : prorupta opera, quibus pretiosa rura cinguntur : quassata atque etiam decussa monimenta. Multi ejusmodi casibus debilitati, obruti, obtriti, et aucta luctibus damna. Ne quid simile istic, pro mensurâ periculi, vereor : teque rogo, si nihil tale est, quàm maturissimè solitudini meæ consulas : sed et, si tale, id quoque nunties. Nam parvulum differt, patiaris adversa an expectes : nisi quod tamen est dolendi modus, non est timendi. Doleas enim, quantum scias accidisse : timeas, quantum possit accidere. Vale.

3. C. PLINIUS GALLO SUO S.

Ad quæ noscenda iter ingredi, transmittere mare solemus, ea sub oculis posita negligimus : seu quia ita naturâ comparatum, ut proximorum incuriosi, longinqua sectemur ; seu quòd omnium rerum cupido languescit, quum facilis occasio est ; seu quòd differimus, tanquam sæpe visuri, quod datur videre quoties velis cernere. Quâcunque de causâ, permulta in urbe nostra, juxtaque urbem, non oculis modò, sed ne auribus quidem novimus : quæ si tulisset Achaia, Ægyp-

tus, Asia, aliave quælibet miraculorum ferax commendatrixque terra, audita, perlecta, lustrataque haberemus. Ipse certè nuper, quod nec audieram ante, nec videram, audiui pariter et vidi. Exegerat prosocer meus, ut Amerina prædia sua inspicerem. Hæc perambulanti mihi ostenditur subjacens lacus, nomine Vadimonis; simul quædam incredibilia narrantur. Pervenit ad ipsum. Lacus est in similitudinem jacentis rotæ circumscriptus, et undique æqualis; nullus sinus, obliquitas nulla, omnia dimensa, paria, et quasi artificis manu cavata et excisa. Spatium modicum, quod tamen sentiat ventos, et fluctibus intumescat. Nulla in hoc navis (sacer enim est) sed innatant insulæ herbidæ, omnes arundine et junco tectæ, quæque alia fœcundior palus, ipsaque illa extremitas lacûs effert. Sua cuique figura, ut motus: cunctis margo derasus, quia frequenter vel littori vel sibi illisæ terunt terunturque. Interdum junctæ copulatæque et continenti similes sunt; interdum discordantibus ventis digeruntur; nonnunquam destitutæ tranquillitate singulæ fluitant. Sæpe minores majoribus, velut cymbulæ onerariæ, adhærescunt; sæpe inter se majores minoresque quasi cursum certamenque desumunt; rursus omnes in eun-

dem locum appulsæ, quâ steterunt, promovent terram, et modò hàc, modò illàc, lacum reddunt auferuntque; ac tum demum, quum medium tenere, non contrahunt. Constat, pecora herbas sequuta, sic in insulas illas, ut in extremam ripam, procedere solere, nec priùs intelligere mobile solum, quàm littore abrepta, quasi illata et imposita, circumfusum undique lacum pavent; mox quò tulerit ventus egressa, non magis se descendisse sentire, quàm senserint ascendisse. Idem lacus in flumen egeritur: quod ubi se paulisper oculis dedit, specu mergitur, altèque conditum meat: ac, si quid ante quàm subduceretur accepit, servat et profert. Hæc tibi scripsi, quia nec minùs ignota quàm mihi, nec minùs grata credebam. Nam te quoque, ut me, nihil æquè ac naturæ opera delectant. Vale.

4. C. PLINIUS GEMINIO SUO S.

Nostine hos, qui omnium libidinum servi sic aliorum vitiis irascuntur, quasi invideant, et gravissimè puniunt, quos maximè imitantur? quum eos etiam, qui non indigent clementia ullius, nihil magis quàm lenitas deceat. Atque ego optimum et emendatissimum existimo, qui

ceteris ita ignoscit, tanquam ipse quotidie peccet ; ita peccatis abstinet, tanquam nemini ignoscat. Proinde hoc domi, hoc foris, hoc in omni vitæ genere teneamus, ut nobis implacabilis simus ; exorabiles istis etiam, qui dare veniam nisi sibi nesciunt : mandemusque memoriæ, quod vir mitissimus, et ob hoc quoque maximus, Thræsea, crebrò dicere solebat, *Qui vitia odit, homines odit*. Fortasse quæris, quo commotus hæc scribam ? Quidam nuper. . . . Sed meliùs coràm ; quanquam ne tunc quidem. Vereor enim, ne id quod improbò eos sectari, carpere, referre, huic, quod quàm maximè præcipimus, repugnet. Quisquis ille, qualiscunque, sileatur : quem insignire, exempli non nihil ; non insignire, humanitatis plurimùm refert. Vale.

5. C. PLINIUS MAXIMO SUO S.

Amor in te meus cogit, non ut præcipiam (neque enim præceptore eges) admoneam tamen, ut quæ scis, teneas et observes, aut scias meliùs. Cogita, te missum in provinciam Achaïam, illam veram et meram Græciam, in qua primùm humanitas, literæ, etiam fruges, inventæ esse creduntur ; missum ad ordinandum statum lib-

erarum civitatum, id est, ad homines maximè liberos, qui jus a natura datum, virtute, meritis, amicitia, fœdere denique et religione tenuerunt. Reverere conditoris deos, numina deorum. Reverere gloriam veterem, et hanc ipsam senectutem, quæ in homine venerabilis, in urbibus sacra est. Sit apud te honor antiquitati, sit ingentibus factis, sit fabulis quoque: nihil ex cujusquam dignitate, nihil ex libertate, nihil etiam ex jactatione decerpseris. Habe ante oculos, hanc esse terram quæ nobis miserit jura, quæ leges non victa acceperit sed petentibus dederit; Athenas esse, quas adeas; Lacedæmonem esse, quam regas: quibus reliquam umbram, et residuum libertatis nomen eripere, durum, ferum, barbarumque est. Vides a medicis, quanquam in adversa valetudine nihil servi ac liberi differant, molliùs tamen liberos clementiùsque tractari. Recordare, quid quæque civitas fuerit; non ut despicias quod esse desierit. Absit superbia, asperitas; nec timueris contemptum. An contemnitur, qui imperium, qui fasces habet, nisi qui humilis, et sordidus, et qui se primus ipse contemnit? Malè vim suam potestas aliorum contumeliis experitur; malè terrore veneratio acquiritur: longèque valentior amor ad

obtinendum quod velis, quàm timor. Nam timor abit si recedas, manet amor: ac sic, ut ille in odium, hic in reverentiam vertatur. Te verò etiam atque etiam (repetam enim) meminisse oportet officii tui titulum, ac tibi ipsi interpretari, quale quantumque sit ordinare statum liberarum civitatum. Nam quid ordinatione civilius? Quid libertate pretiosius? Porro quàm turpe, si ordinatio eversione, libertas servitute mutetur? Accedit, quòd tibi certamen est tecum: onerat te quæsturæ tuæ fama, quam ex Bithynia optimam revexisti: onerat testimonium principis: onerat tribunatus, prætura, atque hæc ipsa legatio, quasi præmium data. Quò magis nitendum est, ne in longinquam provinciam quàm suburbanum, ne inter servientes quàm liberos, ne forte quàm iudicio missus, ne rudis et incognitus quàm exploratus probatusque, humanior, melior, peritior fuisse videaris: cùm sit alioqui, ut sæpe audisti, sæpe legisti, multo deformius, amittere quàm non assequi laudem. Hæc velim credas (quod initio dixi,) scripsisse me admonentem, non præcipientem; quanquam præcipientem quoque. Quippe non vereor, in amore ne modum excesserim. Neque enim periculum est, ne sit nimium, quod esse maximum debet. Vale.

LIBER IX.

1. C. PLINIUS PAULINO SUO S.

Alius alium, ego beatissimum existimo, qui bonæ mansuræque famæ præsumptione perfruītur, certusque posteritatis cum futurâ gloriâ vivit. Ac mihi nisi præmium æternitatis ante oculos, pingue illud altumque otium, placeat. Etenim omnes homines arbitror oportere aut immortalitatem suam aut mortalitatem cogitare: et illos quidem contendere et non remitti, tum hos quiescere, nec brevem vitam caducis laboribus fatigare: ut video multos, miserâ simul et ingrâtâ imagine industriæ, ad mortalitatem suâ pervenire. Hæc ego tecum, quæ quotidie mecum, ut desinam mecum, si dissenties tu; quamquam non dissenties, ut qui semper præclarum aliquid et immortale meditaris. Vale.

2. C. PLINIUS JUNIORIO SUO S.

Castigabat quidam filium suum, quòd paulo sumptuosiùs equos et canes emeret. Huic ego, juvene digresso, *Heus tu, nunquamne fecisti, quod a patre corripi posset? Fecisti, dico?*

Non interdum facis quod filius tuus, si repente pater ille, tu filius, pari gravitate reprehendat? Non omnes homines aliquo errore ducuntur? Non hic in illo sibi, in hoc alius, indulget? Hæc tibi admonitus immodicæ servitatis exemplo, pro amore mutuo, scripsi, ne quando tu quoque filium tuum acerbiùs duriùsque tractares. Cogita et illum puerum esse, et te fuisse; atque ita hoc quòd es pater utere, ut memineris, et te hominem esse, et hominis patrem. Vale.

3. C. PLINIUS SABINIANO SUO S.

Libertus tuus, cui succensere te dixeras, venit ad me, advolutusque pedibus meis tanquam tuis hæsit. Flevit multum, multùmque rogavit; multùm etiam tacuit: in summâ, fecit mihi fidem pœnitentiæ. Verè credo emendatum, quia deliquisse se sentit. Irasceris, scio: et irasceris meritò, id quoque scio: sed tunc præcipua mansuetudinis laus, quum iræ causa justissima est. Amâsti hominem, et, spero, amabis: interim sufficit, ut exorari te sinas. Licebit rursus irasci, si meruerit: quod exoratus excusatiùs facies. Remitte aliquid adolescentiæ ipsius, remitte lacrymis, remitte indulgentiæ tuæ: ne torseris illum, ne torseris etiam te. Torqueris enim,

quum tam lenis irasceris. Vereor ne videar non rogare, sed cogere, si precibus ejus meas junxero. Jungam tamen tantò pleniùs et effusiùs, quantò ipsum acriùs severiùsque corripui, districtè minatus, nunquam me postea rogaturum. Hoc illi, quem terreri oportebat, tibi non idem. Nam fortasse iterum rogabo, iterum impetrabo: sit modò tale, ut rogare me, præstare te deceat. Vale.

4. C. PLINIUS SABINIANO SUO S.

Bene fecisti quòd libertum, aliquando tibi carum, reducentibus epistolis meis in domum, in animum recepisti. Juvabit hoc te: me certè juvat: primùm, quòd te talem video, ut in irâ regi possis: deinde quòd tantum mihi tribuis, ut vel auctoritati meæ pareas, vel precibus indulgeas. Igitur et laudo et gratias ago. Simul in posterum moneo, ut te erroribus tuorum, etsi non fuerit qui deprecetur, placabilem præstes. Vale.

5. C. PLINIUS GEMINIO SUO S.

Laudas mihi, et frequenter præsens, et nunc per epistolas, Nonium tuum, quòd sit liberalis in

quosdam : et ipse laudo, si tamen non in hos solos. Volo enim eum qui sit verè liberalis, tribuere patriæ, propinquis, affinibus, amicis, sed amicis dico pauperibus : non ut isti, qui iis potissimùm donant, qui donare maximè possunt. Hos ego viscatis hamatisque muneribus, non sua promere puto, sed aliena corripere. Sunt ingenio simili, qui quod huic donant, auferunt illi, fanamque liberalitatis avaritiâ petunt. Primum est autem, suo esse contentum : deinde, quos præcipuè scias indigere, sustentantem foventemque, orbe quodam societatis ambire. Quæ cuncta si facit iste, usquequaque laudandus est ; si unum aliquod, minùs quidem, laudandus tamen. Tam rarum est etiam imperfectæ liberalitatis exemplar. Ea invasit homines habendi cupido, ut possideri magis quàm possidere videantur. Vale.

6. C. PLINIUS CANINIO SUO S.

Incidi in materiam veram, sed simillimam fictæ, dignamque isto lætissimo, altissimo planèque poëtico ingenia. Incidi autem, dum super cœnam varia miracula hinc inde referuntur. Magna auctoris fides ; tametsi quid poetæ cum fide ? Is

tamen auctor, cui bene vel historiam scripturus credidisses. Est in Africâ Hipponensis colonia, mari proxima: adjacet ei navigabile stagnum, ex quo, in modum fluminis, æstuarium emergit, quod vice alternâ, prout æstus aut repressit, aut impulit, nunc infertur mari, nunc redditur stagno. Omnis hîc ætas piscandi, navigandi, atque etiam natandi studio tenetur: maximè puerorum, quos otium ludusque sollicitat. His gloria et virtus altissimè provehi: victor ille qui longissimè ut littus, ita simul nantes, reliquit. Hoc certamine puer quidam, audentior cæteris, in ulteriora tendebat: delphinus occurrit, et nunc præcedere puerum, nunc sequi, nunc circuire, postremò subire, deponere, iterum subire, trepidantemque perferre primùm in altum: mox flectit ad littus, redditque terræ et æqualibus. Serpit per coloniam fama: concurrere omnes, ipsum puerum tanquam miraculum aspicere, interrogare, audire, narrare. Postero die obsident littus, prospectant mare, et si quid est mari similè. Natant pueri: inter hos ille, sed cautiùs. Delphinus rursus ad tempus, rursus ad puerum venit. Fugit ille cum ceteris. Delphinus, quasi invitet, revocet, exilit, mergitur, variosque orbes implicitat expeditque. Hoc altero die, hoc tertio; hoc pluribus,

donec homines innutritos mari subiret timendi pudor: accedunt, et alludunt, et appellant: tangunt etiam, pertrectantque præbentem. Crescit audacia experimento. Maximè puer, qui primus expertus est, adnatat natanti, infilît tergo: fertur referturque: agnoscî se, amari putat, amat ipse: neuter timet, neuter timetur. Hujus fiducia, mansuetudo illius augetur: nec non alii pueri dextrâ lævâque simul eunt hortantes monentesque. Ibat unâ (id quoque mirum) delphinus alius, tantùm spectator et comes. Nihil enim simile aut faciebat, aut patiebatur: sed alterum illum ducebat, reducebat, ut puerum ceteri pueri. Incredibile (tam verum tamen quàm priora) delphinum gestatorem collusoremque puerorem in terram quoque extrahi solitum, arenisque siccatum, ubi incaluisset, in mare revolvi. Constat Octavium Avitum, legatum proconsulis, in littus educto religione pravâ superfudisse unguentum, cujus illum novitatem odoremque in altum refugisse; nec nisi post multos dies visum languidum et mœstum; mox, redditis viribus, priorem lasciviam et solita ministeria repetisse. Confluebant ad spectaculum omnes magistratus, quorum adventu et morâ modica respublica novis sumptibus atterebatur.

Postremò locus ipse quietem suam secretumque perdebat. Placuit occultè interfici, ad quod coibatur. Hæc tu quâ miseratione, quâ copiâ deflebis, ornabis, attolles? Quanquam non est opus affingas aliquid aut adstruas; sufficit ne ea quæ sunt vera minuantur. Vale.

7. C. PLINIUS FUSCO SUO S.

Quæris quemadmodum in Tuscis diem æstate disponam. Evigilo quum libuit, plerumque circa horam primam, sæpe antè; tardiùs rarò: clausæ fenestræ manent. Mirè enim silentio et tenebris animus alitur. Ab iis quæ avocant abductus, et liber, et mihi relictus, non oculos animo, sed animum oculis sequor, qui eadem quæ mens, vident, quoties non vident alia. Cogito si quid in manibus, cogito ad verbum scribenti emendantique similis: nunc pauciora, nunc plura, ut vel difficilè vel facilè componi tenerive potuerunt. Notarium voco, et, die admisso, quæ formaveram dicto; abit, rursusque revocatur, rursusque remittitur. Ubi hora quarta vel quinta (neque enim certum dimensumque tempus) ut dies suasit, in xystum me vel cryptoporticum confero; reliqua meditor

et dicto ; vehiculum ascendo. Ibi quoque idem quod ambulans aut jacens. Durat intentio, mutatione ipsa refecta : paulum redormio, dein ambulo, mox orationem Græcam Latinamve clarè et intentè, non tam vocis causâ quàm stomachi, lego : pariter tamen et illa firmatur. Iterum ambulo, ungor, exerceor, labor. Cœnanti mihi, si cum uxore, vel paucis, liber legitur : post cœnam, comœdi aut lyristes : mox cum meis ambulo, quorum in numero sunt eruditi. Ita variis sermonibus vespera extenditur, et quamquam longissimus dies, citò conditur. Nonnunquam ex hoc ordine aliqua mutantur. Nam si diu tacui, vel ambulavi, post somnum demum lectionemque, non vehiculo, sed (quod brevius, quia velocius) equo gestor. Interveniunt amici ex proximis oppidis, partemque diei ad se trahunt, interdumque lassato mihi opportunâ interpellatione subveniunt. Venor aliquando : sed non sine pugillaribus, ut quamvis nihil ceperim, nonnihil referam. Datur et colonis (ut videtur ipsis) non satis temporis, quorum mihi agrestes querelæ literas nostras et isthæc urbana opera commendant. Vale.

8. C. PLINIUS FUSCO SUO S.

Scribis, pergratas tibi fuisse literas meas, quibus cognovisti quemadmodum in Tuscis otium æstatis exigere: requiris quid ex hoc in Laurentino hyeme permutem. Nihil, nisi quòd meridianus somnus eximitur, multumque de nocte vel ante vel post diem sumitur: et, si agendi necessitas instat, quæ frequens hyeme, non jam comædo vel lyristæ post cœnam locus; sed illa quæ dictavi, identidem retractantur, ac simul memoriæ frequenti emendatione proficitur. Habes æstate, hyeme consuetudinem; addas huc licet ver et autumnum, quæ inter hyemem æstatemque media, ut nihil de die perdunt, ita de nocte parvulum acquirunt. Vale.



LIBER X.

1. C. PLINIUS TR. IMP. S.

Sicut saluberrimam navigationem, domine, usque Ephesum expertus, ita inde, postquam vehiculis iter facere cœpi, gravissimis æstibus,

atque etiam febriculis vexatus, Pergami substiti. Rursus, quum transissem in orarias naviculas, contrariis ventis retentus, aliquantò tardiùs quàm speraveram, id est xv calend. Octobris, Bithyniam intravi. Non possum tamen de morâ queri, cùm mihi contigerit quod erat auspicatissimum, natalem tuum in provinciâ celebrare. Nunc reipub. Prusensium impendia, reditus, debitores executio: quod ex ipso tractu magis ac magis necessarium intelligo. Multæ enim pecuniæ variis ex causis a privatis detinentur: præterea quædam minimè legitimis sumptibus erogantur. Hæc tibi, domine, in ipso ingressum meo scripsi. Quintodecimo calend. Octobris, domine, provinciam intravi, quam in eo obsequio, in ea erga te fide, quam de genere humano mereris, inveni. Dispice, domine, an necessarium putes mittere huc mensorem. Videntur enim non mediocres pecuniæ posse revocari a curationibus operum, si mensuræ fideliter agantur. Ita certè prospicio ex ratione Prusensium, quam cum Maximo tracto.

2. TRAJANUS PLINIO S.

Cuperem sine querelâ corpusculi tui, et tuorum, pervenire in Bithyniam potuisses, ac simile tibi

iter ab Epheso ei navigationi fuisset, quam expertus usque illo eras. Quo autem die pervenisses in Bythiniam, cognovi, Secunde carissime, literis tuis. Provinciales (credo) prospectum sibi a me, intelligent. Nam et tu dabis operam, ut manifestum sit illis, electum te esse, qui ad eosdem meî loco mittereris. Rationes autem imprimis tibi rerum publicarum excutiendæ sunt. Nam et esse eas vexatas satis constat. Mensores vix etiam iis operibus, quæ aut Romæ, aut in proximo fiunt, sufficientes habeo: sed in omni provinciâ inveniuntur, quibus credi possit, et ideo non deerunt tibi, modò velis diligenter excutere.

3. C. PLINIUS TR. IMP. S.

Quum diversam partem provinciæ circumirem, Nicomediæ vastissimum incendium multas privatorum domos, et duo publica opera, quanquam viâ interjacente, Gerusiam et Isson absumpsit. Est autem latiùs sparsum: primùm violentiâ venti, deinde inertîâ hominum, quòd satis constat otiosos et immobiles tanti mali spectatores perstitisse: et alioqui nullus usquam in publico siphon, nulla hama, nullum denique instrumentum ad incendia compescenda: et hæc quidem, ut

jam præcepi, parabuntur. Tu domine, dispice, instituendum putes collegium fabrorum, duntaxat hominum CL: ego attendam ne quis, nisi faber, recipiatur, neve jure concesso in aliud utatur. Nec erit difficile custodire tam paucos.

4. TRAJANUS PLINIO S.

Tibi quidem secundum exempla complurium, in mentem venit, posse collegium fabrorum apud Nicomedenses constitui: sed meminerimus, provinciam istam, et præcipuè eas civitates, ab ejasmodi factionibus esse vexatas. Quodcunque nomen ex quâcunque causâ dedderimus iis qui in idem contracti fuerint, hetæriæ quamvis breves fient. Satiùs itaque est comparari ea quæ ad coërcendos ignes auxilio esse possint, admoneri-que dominos prædiorum, ut et ipsi inhibeant, ac si res poposcerit, accursu populi ad hoc uti.

5. C. PLINIUS TR. IMP. S.

In aquæductum, domine, Nicomedenses impenderunt HS. xxx. ccc. xxix. qui imperfectus adhuc relictus, ac etiam destructus est: rursus in alium ductum erogata sunt cc. Hoc quo-

que relicto, novo impendio est opus, ut aquam habeant qui tantam pecuniam malè perdiderunt. Ipse perveni ad fontem purissimum, ex quo videtur aqua debere perducì, sicut initio tentatum erat, arcuato opere, ne tantùm ad plana civitatis et humilia perveniat. Manent adhuc paucissimi arcus : possunt et erigi quidam lapide quadrato, qui ex superiore opere detractus est : aliqua pars, ut mihi videtur, testaceo opere agenda erit. Id enim et facilius et vilius. Et imprimis necessarium est, mitti a te vel aquilegem vel architectum, ne rursus eveniat quod accidit. Ego illud unum affirmo, et utilitatem operis et pulchritudinem seculo tuo esse dignissimam.

G. TR. PLINIO S.

Curandum est, ut aqua in Nicomedensem civitatem perducatur. Verè credo te eâ qua debebis diligentia hoc opus aggressurum. Sed, medius fidius, ad eandem diligentiam tuam pertinet, inquirere quorum vitio ad hoc opus tantam pecuniam Nicomedenses perdiderint, ne quum inter se gratificentur, et inchoaverint aquæductus, et reliquerint. Quid itaque compereris, perfer in notitiam meam.

7. C. PLINIUS TR. IMP. S.

Intuenti mihi et fortunæ tuæ et animi magnitudinem, convenientissimum videtur, demonstrare opera non minùs æternitate tuâ quàm gloriâ digna, quantumque pulchritudinis, tantum utilitatis habitura. Est in Nicomedensium finibus amplissimus lacus; per hunc marmora, fructus, ligna, materiæ, et sumptu modico et labore usque ad viam navibus, inde magno labore, majore impendio, vehiculis ad mare devehuntur. Sed hoc opus multas manus poscit: at hæ porro non desunt. Nam et in agris magna copia est hominum, et maxima in civitate: certaue spes omnes libentissimè aggressuros opus omnibus fructuosum. Superest ut tu libratores vel architectum, si tibi videbitur, mittas, qui diligenter exploret sitne lacus altior mari, quem artifices regionis hujus quadraginta cubitis altiores esse contendunt. Ego per eadem loca invenio fossam a rege percussam: sed incertum utrùm ad colligendum humorem circumjacentium agrorum, an ad committendum flumini lacum; est enim imperfecta. Hoc quoque dubium, intercepto rege mortalitate, an desperato operis effectum. Sed hoc ipso (feres enim me ambitio-

sum) pro tuâ gloriâ incitor et accendor, ut cupiam peragi a te quæ tantùm cœperant reges.

8. TRAJANUS PLINIO S.

Potest nos sollicitare lacus iste ut committere illum mari velimus : sed planè explorandum est diligenter, ne, si immissus in mare fuerit, totus effluat. Certè, quantum aquarum, et unde accipiat. Poteris a Calphurnio Macro petere Libratorem. Et ego hinc aliquem tibi, peritum ejusmodi operum, mittam.

9. C. PLINIUS TR. IMP. S.

Pecuniæ publicæ, domine, providentiâ tuâ et ministerio nostro etiam exactæ sunt et exiguntur : quæ vereor ne otiosæ jaceant. Nam et prædiorum comparandorum aut nulla aut rarissima occasio est : nec inveniuntur qui velint debere, reipub præsertim duodenis assibus, quanti a privatis mutuantur. Dispice ergo, domine, numquid minuendam usuram, ac per hoc idoneos debitores invitandos, putes : et, si ne sic quidem reperiuntur, distribuendam inter decuriones pecuniam, ita ut rectè reipublicæ caveant : quod,

quanquam invitis et recusantibus, minùs acerbum erit, leviori usurâ constitutâ.

10. TR. PLINIO S.

Et ipse non aliud remedium dispicio, mi Secunde carissime, quàm ut quantitas usurarum minuatur, quò faciliùs pecuniæ publicæ collocentur. Modum ejus ex copiâ eorum qui mutuabuntur tu constitues. Invitos ad accipiendam compellere, quod fortassis ipsis otiosum futurum sit, non est ex justitiâ nostrorum temporum.

11. C. PLINIUS TR. IMP. S.

Tu quidem, domine providentissime, vereris ne commissus flumini, atque ita mari, lacus effluat: sed ego in re præsentì invenisse videor quemadmodum huic periculo occurrerem. Potest enim lacus fossâ usque ad flumen adduci, nec tamen in flumen emitti, sed relicto quasi margine contineri pariter et dirimi: sic consequemur ut nec vicino videatur flumini mistus, et sit perinde ac si misceatur. Erit enim facile per illam brevissimam terram, quæ interjacebit, onera transponere in flumen. Quod ita fiet, si neces-

sitas coget, et (spero) non coget. Est enim et lacus ipse satis altus, et nunc in contrariam partem flumen emittit; quod interclusum inde, et quò volumus aversum, sine ullius detrimento-lacus tantum aquæ, quantum nunc portat, effundet. Præterea per id spatium, per quod fossa facienda est, incidunt rivi: qui si diligenter colligantur, augebunt illud quod lacus dederit. Enimvero si placeat fossam longiùs ducere, et arctiùs pressam mari æquare, nec in flumen, sed in ipsum mare emittere, repercussus maris servabit et reprimet quicquid e lacu veniet. Quorum si nihil nobis loci natura præstaret, expeditum tamen erat, cataractis aquæ cursum temperare. Verùm et hæc et alia multo sagaciùs conquiret explorabitque librator, quem planè, domine, debes mittere, ut polliceris. Est enim res digna et magnitudine tuâ et cura. Ego interim Calphurnio Macro, clarissimo viro, auctore te scripsi, ut libratores quàm maximè idoneum mitteret.

12. TR. PLINIO S.

Manifestum est, mi Securde carissime, nec prudentiam nec diligentiam tibi defuisse circa

istum lacum, cùm tam multa provisa habeas, per quæ nec periclitetur exhauriri, et magis in usus nobis futurus sit. Elige igitur id quod præcipuè res ipsa suaserit. Calphurnium Macrum credo facturum, ut te libratore instruat: neque enim provinciæ istæ his artificibus carent.

13. C. PLINIUS TR. IMP. S.

Sinopenses, domine, aquâ deficiuntur: quæ videtur et bona et copiosa ab sextodecimo milario posse perducì. Est tamen statim ab capite paulò ampliùs mille passibus locus suspectus et mollis, quem ego interim explorari modico impendio jussi, an recipere et sustinere opus possit. Pecunia, curantibus nobis, contracta, non deerit, si tu, domine, hoc genus oporis et salubritati et amœnitati valde sitientis colonix indulseris.

14. TR. PLINIO S.

Ut cæpisti, Secunde carissime, explora diligenter, an locus ille, quem suspectum habes, sustinere opus aquæductûs possit. Neque enim dubitan-

dum puto, quin aqua perducenda sit in coloniam Sinopensem, si modò et viribus suis ipsa id assequi potest, cùm plurimum ea res et salubritati et voluptati ejus collatura sit.



NOTES.

. The Roman characters refer to pages, the Arabic figures to lines.

IX. 1. *C. Plinii*] Caius Plinius Cæcilius Secundus, commonly called the younger Pliny, in distinction from his uncle the naturalist, was born in the year 62, at Cornum, now Corno, a town about twenty-five miles north of Milan, on a picturesque lake called Larius, now the lake of Corno. He owed his education in part to the celebrated Quinctilian, whom, in gratitude for his attentions, he remembered and assisted in his old age. Before the age of eighteen, he entered the army, and served as military tribune in Syria. Soon after, he turned his attention to pleading as a profession, and at twenty, commenced practising at the bar. Having passed about six years in the practice of his profession with great credit, he was made questor, then tribune of the people, and finally prætor,

to which last office he was appointed before the legal age. Pliny was spared in the persecution which Domitian carried on against all who were eminent for merit or learning, and after his death, vindicated the memory of Helvidius, who had been in the number of his victims. In the year 97, he married Calpurnia with whom he lived very affectionately and whose excellent qualities he often mentions in his letters. Soon after, he was appointed by Nerva prefect of the treasury, an office which he held two years. Under Trajan he was promoted to the honor of the consulship, and was afterward sent by this emperor proconsul to Bithynia in Asia Minor. It was from this province that he wrote, in the year 102, his celebrated letter respecting the Christians, which induced Trajan to mitigate the persecution which was carried on against them. While in this office he mainly employed himself in projecting various public works for the benefit of the province. Neither the year nor the place of Pliny's death is known, but as nothing of his appears later than 107, it is most probable that he died in this year, the 45th of his age.

These letters then would seem to have been written between the years 80 and 107 of the Christian era. They bear no particular dates, and the time at which each was composed must be gathered from the subject matter itself. A table of the emperors under whom Pliny wrote, and of their periods of office, is subjoined.

The whole number of letters collected by the author himself was 369, which are divided into ten books, the last being wholly devoted to the correspondence between him and the emperor Trajan.

Vespasian	Imp.	A. D.	69 to	79
Titus	"	"	79 to	81
Domitian	"	"	81 to	96
Nerva	"	"	96 to	98
Trajan	"	"	98 to	107



BOOK I.—LETTER I.

Pliny dedicates this collection of letters to his friend Septitius.

6. *C. Plin.*] Caius Plinius Septitio *amico suo salutem dat.* This was the usual mode of commencing an epistle, and signifies that the writer desires health, or presents his best wishes to his friend.

7. *Frequenter*] "You have often urged me, that I should collect and publish my letters, if I had written some more accurately *than the rest.*" Or "such of my letters as I had written more accurately."

9. *non*] “not preserving the order of time, for I was not writing a history, but according as,” &c.

11. *Superest*] “It remains *to wish* that it may not repent you of your advice nor me of my compliance.”

13. *ut*] “that I shall look up those, which still lie neglected, and if I shall add any I will not suppress them. Farewell.”

LETTER 2.

Describing the vanity of the pursuits which for the most part occupy the attention in the city, compared with the more dignified employments of the country.

17. *quam*] “how for single days the account of *time passed* in town holds good or seems to do so, but for several days or all of them together does not.”

x. 2. *respondeat*] “he will *perhaps* answer, ‘I was present’ at ceremony of the toga virilis; I assisted at an espousal or a wedding.” All these were occasions of great interest. The espousal of two parties usually took place some time before the celebration of the actual marriage. It was accompanied with many ceremonies, at which the priests and augurs assisted: the marriage contract was drawn up in the presence of witnesses, and confirmed by the betrothed pair breaking a straw between them;

the bridegroom then presented the bride with the wedding ring; presents were made to the young couple by their immediate friends who were present on the occasion; and the father, or nearest relative of the bride—at whose house the ceremony usually took place—gave a grand entertainment.

The investiture of the toga virilis or manly gown which took place at seventeen years of age, was, in families of rank, a ceremony of great solemnity as well as festivity. The friends and relatives of the youth being assembled on the occasion, he was stripped of the prætextan robe, and the golden ball which ornamented the latter was consecrated to the lares, or household gods. He was then clothed in a toga of pure white, without ornament, and conducted by the whole company followed by the servants and retainers of his house and near connections, to the capitol, where prayers and sacrifices were offered to the gods. Thence he was taken with the same parade to the forum, to make his public entry into the world on that spot where probably the most important scenes of his future life were to be acted. After this the day was concluded with a feast to which the dependents of the family were admitted, and presents were distributed among the guests.”—*Domestic Manners and Institutions of the Romans*. Chap. xv. and xvii.

6. *Hæc*] “These things, on the day you do them, seem necessary; but the same, if you con-

sider that you have been doing them daily, appear trivial, and especially so when you have withdrawn from them."

10. *Quod*] "*This is what happens to me, when in my Laurentian estate I read or write something or even attend to my person by the support of which the mind is sustained.*" Laurentino agrees with *prædio* understood.

13. *quod*] "which I am sorry to have heard."

14. *apud me*] at my house.

20. *ac*] "and more delightful than almost any employment."

22. *quàm*] "how many *thoughts* do you invent, how many do you suggest."

26. *Satius*] "For it is better—to be idle than to be busy about nothing."

LETTER 3.

He reproaches Septitius with having broken his engagement to come to dinner, and enumerates the delicacies which were prepared for his reception.

XI. 4. *promittis*] you promise *to come* to dinner and come not." The Roman *cæna*, often improperly rendered supper, was taken at about 3 o'clock.

5. *Dicitur*] "The sentence is passed; you shall pay the expense to a farthing, and that not small."

6. *singulæ*] “one for each;” so *binæ* “two for each;” *ternæ* “three for each.”

8. *nam*] “for this too you shall account for; nay this especially, which perishes in the dish.”

12. *quæ*] “such is my liberality.”

12. *At*] “But you have chosen at somebody’s house, I know not whom, *to be treated with* oysters, urchins and Spanish dancers.” The latter as well as the graver personages with whom Pliny had proposed to entertain his guest were commonly introduced at Roman dinners.

15. *invidisti*] “you have wronged, whether yourself I know not, certainly me, but yet yourself also.”

17. *apparatius*] “more luxuriously” this and the last three words in the sentence are the comparatives of adverbs.

19. *In summâ*] “In fine, make the trial; and unless you shall afterwards rather excuse yourself to all others, then always refuse me.”



BOOK II.—LETTER I.

He describes the mixture of ostentation and meanness displayed by an acquaintance with whom he had dined.

XII. 3. *Longum*] “It is too long to recount fully, and it matters not how it happened, that

I, though by no means a familiar friend, was dining with a person liberal and thrifty, as he seemed to himself; as *he appeared* to me, both extravagant and mean."

7. *optima*] "some of the best dishes."

9. *Vinum*] "He had also divided the wine *contained* in small bottles, into three kinds; not that there might be the privilege of choosing, but that there might be no right of refusing *the particular kind offered*."

8. *aliud*] "*placed one kind* for us, another for his smaller friends, (for he has friends in grades,) another for his own and our freedmen." The freedman was a manumitted slave who remained in the family of his late master in the character of a client or dependent, and bore his name as a prefix to his own.

See there that Dama! view a worthless slave,
Of knavish muleteers the veriest knave!
Let but his master one small turn bestow,
Plain Dama, straight, shall Marcus Dama grow.

Owen's *Persius*. Lat. v.

13. *Animadvertit*] "*He* who reclined next to me observed *this*, and asked me if I approved it." I said no. "What custom, then," said he, "do you adopt?" "I place the same dishes before all. For I invite them to a supper, not to a register; and I make equal in all things, those whom I have made equal at my table and my couch." "The freedmen too?" "Those too."

For then I hold them guests, not freedmen." He replies, "It must cost you a great sum." "By no means." "How can this be managed?" "It can; because my freedmen do not drink the same as I do, but I the same, as my freedmen."

XIII. 1. *Illa*] se gula. "This then must be restrained, this must be reduced to order as it were, if you would save expense, which you can better provide for by your own temperance, than by degrading others."

5. *Quorsum*] To what purpose *do I say* these things.

11. *quæ*] "which as they are very base when separate, are more basely joined;" "are more disgraceful when united."

LETTER 2.

Lamenting that he is prevented by his engagements in town from enjoying with his friends the beauty of Lake Larius.

17. *Nam*] "For the lake supplies fish, the woods with which the lake is surrounded, game, and that deep retreat, subjects of meditation in abundance."

19. *Sed*] "But whether you do all together, or some one, I cannot say, I envy you; yet I am vexed, that those things are not permitted to me, too, which I desire as sick men do wine, baths, fountains."

23. *Nunquamne*] "Shall I never break these close fetters of *business*, if it is denied to me to loosen them?"

24. *Nam*] "For to the old employments new ones are added, yet the former are not finished; by so many coils, by so many chains, as it were, is the line of occupations daily extended."

LETTER 3.

He relates three anecdotes of Marcus Regulus, intended to exhibit the meanness of his character.

xiv. 6. *Assem*] "Prepare your penny, and hear a fine story." The expression seems to be borrowed from those who exercised the art of story telling as a profession.

7. *Nam*] "For the new one reminds me of some former ones; nor does it matter, from which I commence in preference."

8. *Verania*] "V. Piso's wife lay very ill; I mean that Piso," &c.

11. *Primum*] "First notice the impudence of the man, who came to a sick woman, to whose husband, and to whose self, he had been a violent personal enemy."

13. *Esto*] "Let it pass, if he had only come."

17. *nihil*] "for no purpose, except that he may keep her miserable the longer in suspense."

19. *Climactericum*] The climacteric periods were considered peculiarly dangerous. Those usually so accounted were the years expressed by the successive multiples of 7. The grand climacteric was the 63d year, or 9 times 7.

20. *Aruspices*] "I will consult a sooth-sayer." The aruspices were inferior to the augurs and foretold future events by remarks on the palpitating entrails of newly slaughtered victims, and the circumstances attending sacrifices.

24. *legatum*] "inscribes a legacy for Regulus."

xv. 2. *qui*] "who had foresworn himself by the safety of his son." It was the custom to swear by whatever was regarded as most precious.

7. *novissimâ*] "with his last illness."

10. *quia*] "because he had lately begun to court him."

11. *quoquo*] "that by any means they should prolong life to this man."

14. *quid*] "why do you deny a happy death to one, to whom you cannot give life?"

16. *et*] "and as if he had heard all, left not a farthing to Regulus."

17. *an*] "Do you ask for a third according to the law of the schools," or "according to the old saying."

23. *Rogo*] "I beg you would bequeath these to me" *leges* from *lego*.

xvi. 1. *ille*] "still he compelled her to do this as if about to die."

8. *quum*] “that when he consulted the auspices, how soon he should make up sixty million sesterces, he had found the entrails double, by which it was foretold that he should have an hundred and twenty million.” For it is said by authorities that between the numeral adverbs and sestertiûm the contracted genitive plural of sestertius, the words centena millia must be supplied; so that the first on the above expressions, when read in full, will be six hundred hundred thousand sesterces, and the second twelve hundred hundred thousand.

11. *si*] “if he shall still dictate, as he has begun to do, wills in favor of strangers, to the very persons, to whom they belong; which is the most iniquitous kind of deception.”



BOOK III.—LETTER 1.

Contains an account of the numerous works of Pliny the naturalist, and describes particularly his mode of life.

19. *quærasque*] “and ask, what they all are.”

19. *Fungar*] “I will perform the part of an index.”

De] “one book on throwing the javelin on horseback.”

xvii. 10. *Adstitit*] “Stood before him as he slept.”

13. *ut*] "that he would save him from the injustice of being forgotten."

14. *Studiosi*] "Three books called studiosi."

16. *Dubii*] "Eight books on the subject of equivocal expression."

20. *A fine*] "Thirty-one books from the end of the work of Aufidis Bassus."

23. *Miraris*] "Do you wonder that one so much occupied could have written so many volumes, and many among them requiring so much care?"

XVIII. 2. *Medium*] "that he passed the mean time filled and embarrassed both by very important duties, and by the friendship of the prince."

5. *Erat*] he was indeed remarkable for very easy sleep, often commencing and again leaving him during his studies.

17. *Post*] "After taking the sun he generally bathed in cold water."

21. *adnotabatur*] "notes were taken, and that rapidly."

23. *revocâsse*] "called him back and ordered the passage to be repeated."

XIX. 3. *intra*] "within the first hour of night." The night or the interval between sunset and sunrise was divided into twelve hours which differed in length according to the season.

6. *quum*] "when I say of the bath, I speak only of the processes carried on within."

7. *dum*] "while he is rubbed and wiped." *Destringo* signifies to scrape with the strigil, a sort of currycomb employed by the attendants at the baths."

9. *huic*] "he found time for this care only."

10. *notarius*] "a notary with book and tablets." The notary, or scribe, copied in short hand from dictation. Their skill in this process was such, that it is said some of them could outstrip the most rapid speaker.

14. *Repeto*] "I remember that I was blamed by him for walking."

24. *quadringentis*] for four hundred thousand sesterces, about fourteen thousand dollars.

xx. 3. *Quid*] "For what is there, which those occupations could not prevent, or this industry accomplish."

8. *Ego*] "But am I only *not to be compared to him*, I whom," &c.

10. *Collatus*] "when compared to him."

12. *quamvis*] "although I had intended to write only what you asked, namely how many books he had left."

LETTER 2.

The subject of this letter is Arria, the wife of Soetus, celebrated for her heroism in inflicting a mortal wound on her own person, and then presenting the bloody sword to her husband, encouraging him to follow her example. Pliny endeavors to show that there were other actions in her life equally deserving admiration, though less generally known.

20. *adnotâsse*] "I seem to have observed,"
 "I think I have noticed, that some actions of
 distinguished men or women are more famous
 but others greater."

22. *hesterno*] "by a conversation yesterday
 with Fannia."

XXI. 7. *non*] "not less dear on other accounts,
 than because he was their son."

10. *vivere*] "she pretended that her son lived
 and was even more comfortable."

17. *tanquam*] "as if she had left her bereave-
 ment abroad."

18. *illud*] "that *other action* of hers."

25. *matrem*] "still to act the mother."

XXII. 1. *in*] "in his party."

3. *ut*] "that she might be placed there with
 him."

4. *Nempe*] "for certainly you will give a con-
 sular man." Consulaus signifies one who had
 been consul.

7. *omnia*] "I will perform all these offices
 alone."

9. *Eadem*] "She said before Claudius to
 the wife of Scribonianus, when she offered her
 evidence."

16. *Tu*] "would you then wish your daugh-
 ter, if it shall be my fate to perish, to die with
 me?"

21. *Sensit*] "she perceived it and said, you
 do no good by your precautions; for you can
 cause that I shall die miserably; that I shall not
 die, you cannot."

25. *et*] “and fell. When revived, I told you, said she, that I should find a way, however hard, to death, if you denied me an easy one.”

xxiii. 1. *Videntur*] “Do not these seem more sublime than that expression, Soetus, it hurts me not, to which she arrived through these;” though meanwhile a great reputation encircles that; these, none whatever. “Whence that may be inferred which I said at the outset, that some things are more renowned, others greater.”

LETTER 3.

Death and character of the poet Martial.

Martialem] Martial was born at Bilbilis now Baubola, in Spain, and died in his native country, A. D. 104, in the 75th year of his age.

10. *salis*] “of salt and gall,” wit and satire.

11. *prosecutus*] “I had furnished him with support while in retirement.”

14. *Fuit*] “It belonged to ancient custom.”

17. *ut*] “Like other elegant and excellent customs.”

18. *Nam*] “For since we ceased to do praiseworthy acts, we also consider it unfit to be praised.”

20. *quibus*] “for which I rendered this mark of gratitude.”

21. *nisi*] “unless I had some of the verses.”

22. *ceteros*] “will look for the rest in the book.”

xxiv. 1. *Esquiliis*] “at *Esquiliæ*”; a quarter of the city so called, from the Esquiline hill.

3. *Sed*] “But beware, lest, intoxicated, you knock at his learned door at an improper time.”

6. *centum virorum*] “of the *centum viri*,” that is of the court. The *centum viri* were a sort of justices, at first 100, afterwards 180 in number. In ordinary cases one or more of the number chosen mutually by the parties or by the prætor, decided the question; but in those of great importance, one-fourth, and sometimes the whole body, sat in judgment, presided over by that magistrate.

8. *Arpinis*] “to the writings of Arpinum.” This village, now called Arpino, was the birth-place of Cicero; to whom as well as to Pliny, the poet here pays an elegant compliment, the justice of which posterity has not failed to confirm.

13. *Meritòne*] “Did I not justly then dismiss with kindness, and do I not justly mourn now, as a dear friend, him who,” &c.

18. *At*] “But *you will say*, what he has written will not be immortal.”



BOOK IV.—LETTER 1.

He requests Tacitus to assist him in finding instructors for a new school which he had founded in his native village of Corno.

xxv. 3. *Venisti*] “you have come now, if ever, especially welcome to me.”

8. *jam*] “now near its conclusion.”

10. *ne*] “that nothing may be lost to my despatch.”

15. *municipis*] “a son of my townsman under 17 years of age;” for at this age the pretexta was laid aside.

15. *Huic*] I said to him “you are studying.” He answered “Yes.” “Where?” “At Milan.”

20. *nam*] “For it is very much your interest, you who are,” &c. For the grammatical construction, see Adam’s Grammar, Rule 57, obs. 4.

xxvi. 1. *quantulum*] how trifling an effort would it be.

2. *quodq*] “and to contribute to his maintenance what you now expend on their board, their travelling expenses, and other things which are purchased abroad, since all things are thus purchased.”

7. *tertiam*] “to give a third part of that *sum*, which you shall think proper to raise.”

9. *ne hoc*] “lest this gift of mine should be hereafter perverted by favoritism or intrigue.”

12. *Huic*] "This abuse can be met by only one remedy."

14. *iisdem*] "and the solemn duty of choosing will be imposed on them by the necessity of raising the funds."

17. *dabuntq*] "and will take care that none but a worthy man shall receive money from me, if he must receive it at the same time from them."

20. *qui*] "since I desire that to be as large as possible which I shall be obliged to contribute." See Grammar, lvii. 4.

22. *præstare*] "furnish."

xxvii. 3. *Hæc*] "I thought it proper to count these things thoroughly, and as it were from the source."

6. *ut*] "that out of the number of scholars."

9. *sub*] "under this condition however, that I do not engage my promise to any."

14. *eat*] "he may go thither with this proviso that he carries nothing on which he can depend, except this confidence *in his own merit*."

LETTER 2.

He engages his services in the defence of Corellia, and recounts various acts of friendship for which he had been indebted to her father.

23. *est*] "I have indeed with him, against whom you engage me as advocate, a not very familiar, but still a friendship."

xxviii. 1. *Accedit*] “To this consideration is added the dignity of the man, and this very honor for which he is destined; of which the greater respect is to be had by me, inasmuch as I have already enjoyed it.” The plural form is here used for the singular.

6. *Sed*] “But all these *considerations* seem cold and empty to me, recollecting that I shall assist the daughter of Corellia.

10. *quem*] “whom I, when I had begun to seek him from admiration, contrary to what usually happens, admired still more, after I knew him intimately.”

13. *nihil*] “he *kept* nothing secret.”

16. *ut*] “as to one of the same age.”

20. *in inchoandis*] sc. honoribus. “in entering on the duties of office.”

20. *in omnibus*] “on all occasions pertaining to my interests.”

22. *Quantum*] “How much did he contribute to my reputation.”

deinde] “then with that solemnity which you remember.”

xxix. 3. *parcius*] “that I should praise Secundus sparingly.”

5. *Quâ*] “By which expression he attributed to me a merit, which it would have been unreasonable even to have asked for.”

11. *Quod*] “when I remember this, I feel that I must exert myself, lest I seem in any respect to have belied the confidence of so prudent a person.”

15. *quanquam*] arrange thus: “*quanquam arbitror me consequuturum esse non solum veniam, sed etiam laudem, apud istum ipsum, a quo, ut ais, nova lis fortasse, ut feminæ, intendetur, si contigerit mihi dicere hæc eadem in actione, latius scilicet et uberius quam angustiae epistolarum sinunt, vel in meam excusationem vel etiam in meam commendationem.*” “Though I think I shall obtain not only forgiveness, but even honor, in the sight of him by whom, as you say, a new kind of action is brought, as being against a woman, if it shall happen to me to say those same things,” &c. Some peculiar privileges were granted to matrons by the Roman law.

LETTER 3.

The principal subject of this letter is a discussion which took place in the Senate, in consequence of the authority assumed by Trebonius Rufinus to forbid the continuance of a gymnastic contest in Vienna, where it had been celebrated for many years.

24. *interfui*] “I was lately present at a court held by our excellent prince, being one of his counsellors.”

xxx. 1. *ex*] “according to the bequest of some individual.” The town of Vienna now

called Vienne, is situated on the Loire in France.

3. *in*] "in his duumvirate." The duumvirs were provincial magistrates with joint authority.

6. *Commendabat*] "This circumstance recommended his cause, that," &c.

8. *Quum*] "when the opinions of the judges were called for."

11. *agona*] Greek accusative.

14. *Idem.*] sc. loquebatur.

16. *Veiento*] "V. was next, and even reclined on his breast." Each inclinium or sofa accommodated three persons, each of whom leaned on his left elbow, and used his right hand in conveying the food to his mouth. In this arrangement the head of one came in front of the breast of the one above him. The character of Veiento was infamous as that of a flatterer of the great, and an informer against innocent persons.

21. *Sæpius*] "He was often hurled by Domitian against the best men in the community, just as missiles are thrown without themselves seeing or intending the blow."

26. *quid*] "what can we suppose this man would now suffer if he were alive?" "He would be dining with us," answered Mauricus.

xxx. 2. *longiús*] I have digressed far, but not undesignedly.

3. *ut*] "as this of ours does the manners of all."

LETTER 4.

Describes a singular phenomenon exhibited by a spring at Corno.

13. *Hujus*] "The nature of this is remarkable: for thrice in a day, it rises and falls by regular increase and diminution."

18. *interim*] "meanwhile it is diminished or increased by certain regular and measured amounts."

21. *ac*] "and at last is covered."

xxxii. 1. *Spiritusne*] Pliny here proposes five explanations, with neither of which he seems entirely satisfied, and which in truth are not very satisfactory. The first is that the water may be acted on by some air or gas, like the fluid struggling to escape from a narrow mouthed bottle. The second refers it to the same cause which produces the ebb and flow of the sea. The third to some cause acting as the wind does on the motion of rivers. The fourth to some other spring which feeds it when full, but at intervals withholds its supplies. The fifth to some balancing or alternating source which fills it by emptying and exhausts it when itself fills. Similar springs to that here described are not uncommon. That at Corno still exists, to excite the curiosity and exercise the philosophy of travellers.

3. *prout*] "according as it is thrown in or driven out."

5. *quibus*] “to which the exit is not wide or at once open.”

6. *Nam*] “For these too, though prone and inclined downwards, by the obstacles of the resisting air, check what they pour forth, as it were, with frequent sobs.”

10. *quâq*] “and by whatever means that is impelled or reabsorbed, by the same means is this small body of water alternately suppressed and supplied?”

14. *retorquentur*] “are forced back.”

16. *An latentibus*] “or is there a certain measure only in some secret veins, which while it collects what it had lost, the stream flows less and slower; and when it has collected it bursts forth full and rapid?”

19. *libramentum*] “balancing force.”

21. *quum*] “when it is filled, obstructs and checks it.”



BOOK V.—LETTER I.

Narrative of the circumstances under which a legacy had been left him by Curianus.

XXXIII. 3. *Amplissimo*] “More agreeable than the largest.”

9. *Seque*] “and aid him by *setting* this example to the co-heirs: and promised that the amount should be returned to me under a private contract.”

11. *non*] “that it did not suit my character.”

13. *præterea*] “besides, that it was not very reputable to give to one both rich and childless,” since he would be suspected of having an eye to the inheritance.

14. *in summâ*] “in fine that it would not profit him for me to give; but that it would do so if I should yield my claim; that I was prepared to do this, if it could appear plain to me that he was unjustly disinherited.”

18. *Rogo*] “I beg you to examine the case.”

21. *non*] “that firmness will not be wanting to me, if my honest belief should so lead me, to decide in conformity with your mother.”

xxxiv. 3. *Respondi*] “I answered in a few words, (for there was no one else who could sustain the cause of the deceased Corellia,) then retired; and in conformity with the opinion of my counsellors.”

8. *cum*] “entered an action against the other heirs in the cennial court, but not against me.” For the constitution of this court see notes to Book III. Letter 3.

10. *Componere*] “to compromise and arrange the affair.”

13. *ne*] “lest, by the judgment of the centumvirs they should be found guilty of a capital crime.” In these times it was made a crime to have en-

joyed the friendship of persons who had fallen under the displeasure of the emperor. Such was the case with Rusticus and his wife Gratida; the former had been put to death by Domitian and the latter banished.

14. *Et*] and there were some among them.

19. *heredem ex asse*] "heir to the last farthing:" "sole heir."

26. *omnia*] "and that I have had all these things in use." A title from use could be obtained in movable property in three years; in unmovables in ten and twenty according as the party, possessing the prior right, were present or absent.

xxxv. 1. *utque*] "and that your regard for me may not cause you any loss, I offer you the same proportion of my part."

5. *et*] and unless I flatter myself, he pointed in this marked attention to my former conduct towards him.

12. *ut*] "that it matters not to me."

LETTER 2.

Describes the situation and beauty of his Tuscan villa, in answer to his friend who had endeavored to convince him that the location was unhealthy.

21. *Sed hi*] "But this Tusci." The name appears to have been applied to the whole of Etruria, as well as to the town in which was Pliny's

villa. In both senses the word *fundi*, "farms," seems to be understood.

24. *accipe*] "hear me describe the mildness of the climate."

xxxvi. 2. *quæque*] "and other things which depend on continual heat."

7. *Semper*] "The air is always moved by some breath; but more frequently exhibits breezes than gales."

13. *et*] "and such as the nature of things alone can produce."

21. *opimamque*] and mature a rich harvest only more slowly, but not less successfully.

24. *quarum*] "on the boundary and lower margin of which grew shrubs."

xxxvii. 3. *ut nono*] "that it can only be subdued by the ninth ploughing."

7. *quia*] "because the sloping ground pours into the Tiber whatever moisture it receives and does not absorb."

11. *æstate*] "in summer it subsides and in its dry bed loses the character of a great river which in autumn it regains."

15. *formam*] "a picture."

19. *Tusculanis*] *se fundes* "to my estates at Tusculum, Tiber and Præneste."

22. *nulla*] no necessity for wearing the toga; no client waiting at your elbow.

xxxviii. 1. *mei*] *se famuli*.

3. *venia*] "may the expression be pardon." To boast of one's good fortune was held a bad omen.

LETTER 3.

In answer to his friend who had urged him to undertake a history, he pleads in excuse the number of his engagements, and takes occasion to describe the peculiar talents required by the historian, and in what respect his task differs from that of the orator.

10. *id*] for it were rash to believe this without having tried the experiment.

11. *non*] "not to suffer those events to perish to which universality is due."

15. *præsertim*] especially of one who.

17. *si*] "if by any means I may be able to raise myself also from the dust. This satisfies my desire, the rest is beyond my ambition to fly victorious through the mouths of men. Yet ô, &c. The passages quoted are from Virgil.

23. *historia*] "history in whatever manner written is pleasing."

xxxix. 1. *et*] "and are captivated by a relation of events however naked."

11. *ne*] "lest so much labor should perish with me, in consequence of my not adding that portion of study which remains. For if you have regard to posterity, that which is not finished passes for not begun."

20. *quid*] "what an orator ought to perform."

24. *Narrat*] "An oration relates events; history also relates, but differently." It is proper to observe in the sentences which follow that

hic means the latter referring to history, and ille the former, to oratory.

25. *Huic*] To history belong many things low and mean, and taken from common life: to oratory are suited all far-fetched, noble, elevated subjects.

XL. 2. *tori*] "brawn and mane," that is, "beauty and ornament."

6. *plurimum*] it matters much, as Thucydides says, whether it be a permanent work or a single effort.

10. *et*] "and differing in this very circumstance that both are very important."

12. *ibi*] "I do in one what I ought to do in the other."

12. *Ideoque*] Therefore, not to depart from my usual form of expression, I will request, meanwhile, a delay of action.

15. *quæ*] "what period we shall choose in preference."

16. *parata*] "the investigation is open, but the collecting of the facts is laborious."

23. *est*] "for I have sufficient courage in proportion to my confidence in myself."

23. *Illud*] "This I ask, that you would provide and choose materials for what you urge."

LETTER 4.

Lamenting the death of his friend's daughter, and advising Marcellinus as to the best mode of administering consolation.

XLI. 3. *quâ*] than which young lady I have never seen any thing more cheerful, more amiable, more worthy, not only of long life, but even of immortality.

15. *novissimam*] her last illness.

XLII. 12. *pietatis*] "is wholly given up to paternal affection."

14. *quæ*] "who represented his character not less than his face and expression, and who had copied her father with wonderful likeness."

19. *Quod*] "Time will do much toward enabling him to sustain even this."

24. *et*] "and gently acquiesces in those applied."



BOOK VI.—LETTER I.

Account of the eruption of mount Vesuvius which destroyed Pompeii, and which was fatal to Pliny the naturalist, the uncle of Cæcilius.

XLIII. 6. *Quamvis*] "For although he died *in such a manner* as that he will always live in *the record* of the destruction of this beautiful country as people and cities *are immortalized* by a remarkable event."

13. *aut*] "either to do things worthy to be written, or to write things worthy to be read."

17. *Erat*] "He was at Misenum and was commanding the fleet in person."

18. *Nono*] That is *nono die ante Kalendas Septembris*, "the ninth day before the Kalends of September, or the 23d of August."

20. *Usus*] He having enjoyed the sun, and afterward the cold water, had taken a meal, and was studying.

24. *incertum*] it was doubtful to those viewing at a distance, from what mountain.

XLIV. 5. *Credo*] "I suppose because elevated by the force of the blast, then deserted by it as it failed, or borne down by its own weight, it disappeared in a lateral direction."

9. *Magnum*] "It seemed to him as a philosopher, remarkable and worth examining closely."

11. *mihi*] "he gives me leave, if I wished, to go with him."

14. *Retinæ*] Those on board the fleet belonging to *Retina*.

18. *et*] and what he had commenced from curiosity merely, he perseveres in from benevolence. *Maximo* with *animo* understood means with the highest motive.

19. *Deducit*] He carries down his galleys, and goes on board himself.

20. *erat*] for the pleasantness of the shore caused it to be thickly settled.

22. *rectum. . . . recta*] these adjectives may be rendered adverbially "directly."

24. *ut*] "that he dictated and noted all the

changes, all the forms of the phenomenon, as he observed them with his eyes."

26. *quò*] "as he approached nearer."

XLV. 3. *Jam*] "There was now a sudden shoaling of the water, and the shore was obstructed by the fall of the mountain." In other words, such quantities of stones and fragments were thrown down from the crater into the sea, that they filled up the harbor, and produced a shoal, where before was abundant water.

7. *Stabiis*] "He, i. e. Pomponianus was at Stabiæ separated by the intervening bay. For there, the shore winding and curving inward, the sea is rolled in." Stabiæ is now called Castel a mar di Stabia.

11. *sarcinas*] "had collected his baggage into vessels secure of escape, if the wind, now contrary, should subside, with which wind blowing exactly fair, my uncle having entered the port."

21. *excitabatur*] "was augmented."

23. *in remedium*] "in order to dissipate their alarm."

25. *meatus*] "the passage of his breath."

XLVI. 1. *Sed*] "But the passage by which the eating room was approached was so filled up." The Roman houses were so constructed, that different rooms were often separated by passages entirely exposed to the open air.

7. *intra*] "whether to remain within the house or to go abroad."

9. *et*] "and as if moved from their places

seemed to totter hither and thither. In the open air, on the contrary, was to be feared the fall of the pumice stones, though light and porous. A comparison of dangers, however, decided this to be the least; and while one reason conquered another in him, one fear prevailed over another in his companions."

16. *decidentia*] "the falling fragments."

19. *solvebant*] "relieved."

21. *vastum*] "rough and dangerous."

XLVII. 1. *crassiore*] "his breath being obstructed by the dense smoke, and his stomach closed, which was naturally weak and subject to nausea, and frequently foaming up." Pliny seems to think that the flatulency, with which his uncle was habitually affected, rendered him more liable to suffocation.

6. *habitus*] "the general aspect of the body was more like one asleep than dead."

12. *verè*] "that I have truly stated."

LETTER 2.

Sequel to the account contained in Letter 17th.

19. *quos*] "what fears and dangers I experienced, being left at Misenum."

21. *Quanquam*] "Though my soul trembles to remember."

XLVIII. 6. *Surgebam*] "I was rising, intending to rouse her had she been asleep."

15. *illius*] “reproves her indifference and my insensibility *to the danger*.”

16. *Jam*] “Now was the first hour of day,” probably 7 o’clock.

19. *quanquam*] “although in an open place, yet from its narrowness there was great and imminent danger of destruction.”

21. *visum*] “it seemed best.”

XLIX. 2. *ac ne*] “and though supported by stones would not rest in the same track.”

7. *ab*] “on the other side, a black and frightful cloud of fire, broken into contorted and quivering flashes, divided into long divergent flames, like lightning, but still more terrific.”

13. *si perit*] “if he has perished, he must have wished you to survive him.”

15. *non*] “that we should not allow ourselves, while uncertain about his fate, to provide for our own.”

18. *descendere*] sc. cœpit, “began to descend.”

20. *quod procurrit*] “the part which projects,” “the promontory.”

22. *posse*] “for that I being young could do so.”

24. *Ego contrà*] Sc. disci, “I replied.”

26. *addere*] “to quicken her pace.”

L. 3. *torrentis*] “pouring on the ground in the manner of a river.”

4. *dum*] “while we can see our way.”

11. *hi*] “these lamented their own misfortunes, others those of their friends.”

14. *plures*] “many said that there were no longer any gods, and anticipated that eternal and last night to the world.”

19. *et*] “the fire however stopped at a distance.”

LI. 4. *Occursabant*] “All things appeared changed to our still terrified eyes.”

9. *et*] “and many, bewildered by their terrific anticipations, imagined dangers both to themselves and to others.”

11. *Nobis ne abeundi consilium*] “We resolved not to depart.”

15. *et*] “and you will charge it to yourself, who requested the account.”

BOOK VII.—LETTER 1.

Conduct proper to be maintained in sickness.

22. *ne quid*] “lest something should be possible to it, or lest it should exert some influence, even over your character.”

LII. 3. *Ipsē*] “I myself, when well, am accustomed to deal with my friends in this manner.”

8. *sciantque*] “and recollect, if you allow me any thing improper, I shall resent it as much as others are wont to do what is denied them.”

11. *tandem*] “at length relieved and anointed.” Inunction of the skin was recommended as a remedy in many diseases.

12. *porrexi*] "I offered my hand, and desired he would feel my pulse." When fever was present, the use of liquids was thought to be injurious.

15. *mussantesque*] "whispering."

18. *Atque*] "And thus having calmly and gently given up the use of the bath, into which I seemed just going to enter, I made up my mind," &c.

LETTER 2.

Suggesting to his friend a plan of study to be pursued in the country.

LIII. 7. *præterea*] "and by the imitation of the best models, the power of inventing similar things is acquired."

9. *simul*] "at the same time, those things which escape you in reading, cannot escape you in translating."

11. *Nihil*] "It will do no harm to write off what you have read, so far as to catch the subject and the course of argument, to compare the result with *the original as* read, and to weigh carefully what you, and what the author, has expressed most happily."

21. *quosque*] "and to have surpassed those whom they held it sufficient to follow, since they did not despair."

24. *alia*] "to interline some things and re-write others."

LIV. 1. *recalescere*] “to warm anew and revive your broken and lost zeal; in fine, to add new members to the body already completed, yet not confuse the whole.”

10. *locum*] “a passage from history.”

16. *sed*] “but with that brief and pointed kind which so conveniently diversifies all kinds of occupations and cares.”

22. *mollis*] “if soft and yielding it follow skilful fingers, and ordered becomes a work of art.”

LV. 4. *doctâ*] “by acquired versatility.”

7. *ut his*] “how by these small works the mind is both exerted and relaxed. For they include *as subjects*, love,” &c.

13. *quòd*] “that having been fettered by the necessity of regular measure, we enjoy a freer language.”

24. *dum*] “while I direct you how to study, I have taken from you the time for studying.”

25. *Quin*] “Why not then resume your note-book.”

LETTER 3.

He returns the work of Tacitus to its author with his remarks; and requests a similar criticism on a production of his own.

LVI. 11. *vices*] “interchange of good offices.”

LVII. 1. *quòd*] “that I immediately occur to those speaking about you.”

1. *Nec*] “Nor are there wanting those who

are preferred to either of us. But it matters not to me in what place we are united. For that will be first to me which is next to you."

5. *nisi*] "unless some one happens to be particularly friendly to one of us."

7. *huc*] "tend to this point."

LETTER 4.

Pliny takes occasion, from the illness of a friend, to speak of the effect of bodily disease on the character, and of the duty of keeping in health the resolutions we form in sickness.

16. *et*] "and however little he has, he holds it sufficient, as being about to quit it."

17. *Tunc*] "Then he remembers that there are gods, and that he is a man."

LVIII. 3. *ut*] "that when well we should persevere in being such, as we promise to be when sick."

LETTER 5.

The subject is the prosecution of Belius Massa, at the suit of the *Provinci Betica*, in Spain, and the proceedings of the senate thereupon. It is addressed to the historian Tacitus, by whom he wishes the facts contained in it to be recorded.

12. *Demonstro*] "I declare then, though it cannot escape your research since it appears in

the public records, I declare it however that you may the more believe me, that it will be agreeable to me, if you will illustrate by your genius, your testimony, my *late* act, the popularity of which was increased by the hazard which attended it."

21. *consules*] "that the consuls would listen to complaints."

LIX. 1. *ne*] "that those may not permit the property to be wasted in whose custody it ought to be."

3. *dispice*] "consider, whether you would not judge our duty to be closed, the action of the senate being terminated."

5. *cui*] "*you* who have no attachment to the province except from your own benefit and that a recent one."

14. *impietatis*] "accuses him of impiety." The precise crime here referred to is not agreed upon. It is said however that the charge of unnatural cruelty had been a frequent, and from its vagueness a very dangerous one, under many of the Emperors, but that it was abolished or at least discountenanced under Nerva and Trajan.

17. *prævaricationem*] "will throw on me the suspicion of double dealing since he has not accused me also." Pliny was resolved that he would not by holding back shelter himself from the danger to which he saw his friend exposed. The term *prævaricatio* was employed, when a pleader, betraying his client, so managed the cause as to give the advantage to his opponent.

19. *Divus*] This term was applied to all the emperors.

20. *privatus*] “while a private individual.”

24. *simile*] “an example similar to those of antiquity.”

25. *utcunque*] “however they have themselves,” “whatever merit they possess.”



BOOK VIII.—LETTER 1.

Describing the singular beauty of the fountain and river Clitumnus.

LX. 9. *Hunc*] “Beneath this a spring comes forth, and is pressed out from several unequal veins; and, having forced its way, makes a channel.”

15. *Fons*] “Now a fountain and now a large river and able to bear vessels; which though opposite and tending in different directions it transmits and sustains; so powerful though passing over a level bed,” that is, over a bed nearly level, “that in the direction in which it naturally tends it is not aided by oars; and when adverse is scarcely overcome by oars and poles. To those floating for amusement it is equally agreeable according as they direct their course to exchange labor for rest and rest for labor.”

LXI. 7. *Clitumnus*] A statue of the presiding Deity.

8. *Præsens*] "That there is a presiding divinity and that prophetic, the oracles given amply attest."

14. *Is*] "The bridge forms the line of separation between the sacred and profane part of the river."

17. *Hispellates*] The inhabitants of Hispellum, now called Ispello.

25. *quæ*] "such is your politeness." This fountain still continues an interesting object of attention to travellers.

LETTER 2.

This letter describes the extensive mischief which had been caused by an inundation of the Tiber and the Anio.

LXII. 5. *Quanquam*] "Though drawn off by a ditch which our emperor in his wisdom caused to be made."

10. *atque*] "and thus covers with the waters of other streams the fields which it does not itself touch."

17. *hi*] "those whom, from their elevated situations, the storm did not reach."

25. *Nam*] "for instead of inundation there was continual rain, and whirlpools thrown down from the clouds."

LXIII. 5. *Ne quid*] "I fear lest something

like this may have happened there in proportion to the degree of your exposure to danger."

9. *patiaris*] whether you suffer evils or anticipate them.

LETTER 3.

Describes the curiosities of lake Vadimon now Bassano.

15. *Ad*] The same objects to examine which we are used to make journeys and traverse seas, we neglect when placed before our eyes.

LXIV. 2. *audita*] "we should have heard, read, examined."

5. *ut*] "that I should examine his Amerian estate."

12. *Spatium*] "The extent is moderate, but sufficient to feel the winds and to swell with waves."

15. *sed*] "but there are grassy islands floating upon it covered with reed and rushes and whatever else the rich bottom, and margin of the lake produces."

17. *Sua*] Each has its own form and size.

LXV. 1. *quà*] "where they stop extend the shore, and thus augment and diminish the lake now here and now there; and it is only when they have gained the middle, that they do not contract its dimensions."

9. *mox*] "afterward landing wherever the wind carries them, they no more perceive that

they have left the island than they did their embarking."

12. *altéque*] "and flows deeply concealed; and whatever it has had thrown into it, before it withdrew itself it retains and brings out."

LETTER 4.

He describes the character of those who are severe in judging of the faults of others, but indulgent to their own.

19. *Nostine*] "Do you know."

LXVI. 4. *teneamus*] let us maintain.

10. *Sed meliùs*] "but of this subject better when we meet; though *on second thoughts* not even then. For I fear lest to reprove carp repeat what I disapprove may itself be at variance with my precepts."

14. *quem*] whom to mention belongs to example; not to mention to politeness.

LETTER 5.

Exhorting Maximius to treat with mildness the citizens of Achaia, and reminding him of the ancient power and glory of Greece.

LXVII. 8. *nihil*] "abridge nothing."

12. *quæ*] which did not receive laws when conquered, but gave them to us asking.

20. *non ut*] “not so as to despise it because it has ceased to be such.”

24. *malè*] *aliorum* belongs to *contumeliis*. “Authority ill displays its power by the insults which it heaps on others.”

LXVIII. 5. *ac*] “and to consider with yourself.”

7. *nam*] “for what more worthy of a state than good regulation?”

10. *onerat*] “loads you,” “imposes obligations upon you.”

14. *Quò*] “Wherefore the greater effort must be made, lest you should fear to be more humane, better, and more judicious, in a distant than in a suburban province, among slaves than freemen, when sent by lot than when selected by judgment, when new to office and unknown, than when tried and approved.” Alluding to his questorship in Bithynia, which was at a greater distance from the city, the people of a more servile character, and to which as questor he had been sent by lot.



BOOK IX.—LETTER 1.

Pliny advises those not capable of attaining great distinction to be content with mediocrity.

LXIX. 3. *Alius*] “Another may judge differently, but I esteem *him* happiest who enjoys the

anticipation," &c. After *alium* the words *hominem beatissimum* are to be supplied.

9. *et*] *sc. oportet*, "and it behoves some to try to exert themselves; others to rest, to be relaxed, and not to wear out a short life in works destined to perish."

13. *ad*] "to arrive at a mean estimation of themselves."

16. *ut*] "since you are ever meditating."

LETTER 2.

Recommending mildness to parents in reproofing the faults of their children.

19. *Castigabat*] "Was harshly censuring."

LXX. 4. *Non*] "Does not one indulge himself in this, another in that?"

8. *atque*] "and so use the circumstance of your being a father."

LETTER 3.

The object of this letter is to reconcile Sabinianus to his freedman, who had incurred his displeasure.

12. *Libertus*] Concerning the relation of freedman see notes to B. XI. L. 6.

16. *Verè*] "I consider him truly amended because he feels that he has done amiss."

24. *ne*] "do not torture him."

LXXI. 5. *Hoc*] "This I said to him, whom it was proper to terrify, but not the same to you."

LETTER 4.

To acknowledge the attention which had been paid by Sabinianus to his last letter.

18. *ut te*] "that you show yourself placable to the faults of your dependents, though there should be no one to intercede."

LETTER 5.

Difference between true and false generosity.

LXXII. 6. *Hos*] "I consider these men, with their baited and hooked gifts, not to put forth their own so much as to seize that of others."

7. *Sunt*] "Those are of similar temper who give to one what they take from another."

17. *ut*] "that they seem to be possessed rather than to possess."

LETTER 6.

Account of a remarkable dolphin which made its appearance at Hippo on the Barbary coast.

21. *isto*] *sc tuo*.

22. *Incidit*] "I met with it however, while various wonderful stories are told from various authorities at dinner."

LXXIII. 4. *quod*] “which by turns as the tide checks or urges it.”

7. *Omnis*] “Every age is interested in the amusement.”

9. *His*] “Their glory and courage is to go out as far as possible.”

13. *et nunc*] *sc coepit*.

21. *si quid*] whatever resembles sea, viz. the bays, &c.

25. *variosque*] “and weaves and unweaves various circles.”

LXXIV. 3. *pertrectantque*] “and handle him, offering himself to be touched.”

9. *dextrâ lævâque*] “on the right and left side.”

17. *ubi*] “when it grew warm.”

18. *Constat*] “It appears that Octavius Avitus, the proconsul’s lieutenant, through some foolish superstition, poured ointment on him as he lay stretched on the shore, the novelty and odor of which he fled from into the deep.”

LXXV. 2. *Placuit*] “It was thought best that the animal should be secretly destroyed, to see which such a concourse was made.”

LETTER 7.

Describes particularly the mode in which he passes his time in his Tuscan villa.

10 *horam primam*] that is the first hour after sunrise, for the Romans divided the time from

sunrise to sunset, whether longer or shorter, into twelve hours.

16. *Cogito*] "I think over whatever I have on hand, word for word, like one writing and correcting."

19. *et*] "and admitting the daylight, I dictate what I had composed."

23. *xystum*] "the xystum was a place of resort in fine weather; the cryptoporticum, or covered portico, in the rain."

LXXVI. 2. *Durat*] "The activity of my mind continues, being repaired by change of place."

22. *quorum*] "whose rustic complaints recommend *by contrast* my literary pursuits and those refined occupations."

LETTER 8.

Modifications of the plan last mentioned adopted at his Tusculan villa in winter.

LXXVII. 3. *otium*] "I passed my leisure time in summer."

7. *et si*] "and if there occurs a necessity for pleading, which often happens in winter."

14. *ut*] "although they lose nothing of the day, they still gain something from the night."



BOOK X.—LETTER 1.

This Letter appears to consist of two portions, bearing different dates. The first contains an account of his arrival in Bithynia. The second requests that an engineer may be sent to him to examine into the state of certain public works.

LXVIII. 4. *xv*] that is, quinto decimo die ante Kalendas Octobres. This would be the 17th of September.

11. *ex*] “from the examination itself.”

13. *Hæc*] Here begins the second portion of the Letter.

21. *ratione*] “the account.”

LETTER 2.

The Emperor, in reply, approves of his diligence in examining the accounts, but advises him to find an engineer in the province itself.

24. *sine*] “without injury to your person or that of your friends.”

LXXIX. 4. *prospectum*] “that it has been provided for them by me;” “that their interest has been looked to by me.”

5. *dabis*] “you will take care.”

13. *modò*] “provided you will seek for them.”

LETTER 3.

Relates a severe conflagration which had occurred at Nicomedia, and suggests the expediency of forming a fire company, properly provided and equipped for service.

23. *Sipho*] The precise construction of the ancient fire engine is not known. Probably it resembled, in its essential particulars, those of the present day.

LXXX. 2. *fabrorum*] "of engineers."

LETTER 4.

The Emperor, in reply, discourages the formation of an organized company, but advises such other precautions as the circumstances render expedient.

11. *factionibus*] "by organized bodies of that kind."

13. *hetæriæ*] "political parties."

16. *ut*] "that they prevent the occurrence of fire."

LETTER 5.

Mentioning the unsuccessful attempts which had been made to build an aqueduct for the introduction of water into Nicomedia, and requesting permission to renew the undertaking.

20. *HS.*] To be read "30,328 sesterces." The letters H S, were a corruption of I I S, signifying two and a half. The value of the sestertius was in fact two and a half Roman pena, or three cents, six mills. CC below seems to have millia understood, and to mean 200,000 sesterces.

LXXXI. 5. *arcuato*] "by an arched work so that the water may not be confined to the level and low grounds of the town." The magnificence and expense with which the aqueducts of the Romans were constructed, and which renders their ruins, perhaps, the most remarkable monuments of antiquity, was owing to their ignorance of the apparently simple principle, that water, in whatever direction it has been conveyed, always tends to rise to the height of its original source. Had they known this they would never have deemed it necessary to build arches to support their pipes, in order to give to them a uniform inclination; and those splendid structures, the remains of which still astonish the traveller, would never have existed.

9. *testaceo*] "of brickwork."

LETTER 6.

Trajan directs Pliny, before undertaking the work, to ascertain why so much money had already been expended to no purpose.

19. *Medius Fidius*] A familiar adjuration, equivalent to 'me Hercule,' by Hercules.

22. *quum*] "while they play into each other's hands," "make the work a pretext for a job."

LETTER 7.

Describing a lake on the borders of Nicomedia, and representing the advantages which will accrue from connecting it with the sea by a canal.

LXXXII. 3. *demonstrare*] "to point out works not less worthy of your reputation than of your present glory, and likely to have as much usefulness as beauty."

10. *devehuntur*] The sentence in which the plan of the canal should be proposed, seems to be wanting here. That which follows contains an objection which he thinks may present itself, and which he immediately answers.

23. *hoc*] this too may have happened, the king being carried off by death, or the success of the work being despaired of.

25. *feres*] "you will indulge me in my high hopes."

LETTER 8.

The Emperor advises to have the level of the lake taken, since, if higher than the sea, the water will discharge itself through the canal.

LETTER 9.

Asking counsel respecting the disposal of the public funds.

16. *nec inveniuntur*] “nor can those be found who are willing to be creditors especially to the state at 12 per cent., at which rate they are borrowing from individuals.” The reason he immediately explains to be, that those who borrowed public money were obliged to give ample security, which in private transactions was not so strictly enforced.

21. *inter*] “among the captains of companies.” It would seem from this passage that those persons were to be made responsible for the payment of the rate of interest, at whatever point it was fixed; which, it seems, from the next sentence, they were not very readily disposed to do.

LETTER 10.

The Emperor advises to reduce the rate of interest, and disapproves of lending by compulsion.

LXXXIV. 7. *Modum*] “You must graduate the rate according to the supply of borrowers.” In modern times, the expedient would be to affix a regular rate of interest to the stock, but to

allow the price of the shares themselves to be determined by the state of the market, which seems more convenient.

LETTER 11.

In answer to 10, and proposing means for averting the danger therein named.

17. *sed*] “but by leaving a margin, as it were, can be continuous with it, yet separated from it.”

LXXXV. 6. *quod*] “which, being cut off in that direction, and directed as we wish, will supply to the lake the whole quantity of water which it now takes from it.” This and the two following expedients scarce do much credit to Pliny’s skill in engineering.

9. *Enimvero*] “In fact, if we should conclude to carry the canal further, and depress it to the bed of the sea, and admit it, not into the river but into the sea itself, the tide will retain and restore whatever comes from the lake.” This was certainly a great mistake.

14. *cataractis*] “by locks.”

LETTER 12.

The emperor, in answer, leaves the choice of means to his own discretion.

LETTER 13.

Pliny proposes to bring water into Sinope (now Sinbred) by a cut of sixteen miles.

LXXXVI. 10. *statim*] "just at the head, about a mile distant."

14. *Pecunia*] "The money shall be abundantly furnished by my care."

LETTER 14.

The emperor gives his consent to the enterprise, provided the means of the province are sufficient to meet the expense.

LXXXVII. 2. *viribus*] "by its own resources."





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